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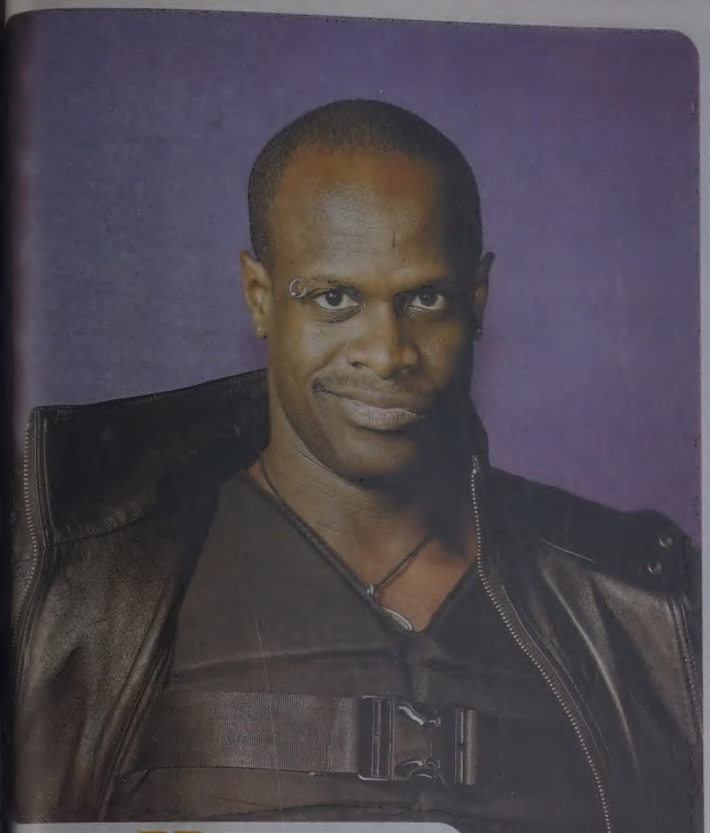

AND YOU ARE...?

Dale Christopher Holness
Exotic Entertainer, Occasions

...did you ever get into this?
...I did this I was a social worker. Like most guys, ...'t like male dancers, but then one day a guy ...up to me and said, "Want a real job?" I told him ...ve it. But, I also saw the difference between ...ing and stripping.... I saw girls wanted more than ...ye-candy. They wanted a fantasy.

...ere did you learn your moves?
...ing is everywhere, you pick it up from videos, ...k everyday movements, other dance styles, belly ...ing... I used to go to bars and see a guy doing ...thing that just looked silly on the dance floor. I'd ..., but change it, slow it down or chop it up. It's so ... easier when you're into the music.

...t sort of paycheck do you bring in?
...ome close to making a thousand in a night. A guy ...d go out to the rigs and do that, but here, you're roughly dancing 10, 12 minutes and then you're getting paid to hang out in a bar from eight to eleven.

Do you get a lot of phone numbers?
It can make it harder to find a date. The normal male patrons are probably getting more. In your first year of dancing you're a rookie, the new guy, and you'll get a lot of numbers. The second year, you're still new, but after being hurt a couple of times you're a little jaded and maybe you're a little more cruel to people. By the third year, you realize girls are just as bad as guys. You've heard the horror stories about a people just looking for one last fling. You get to a point where it's more about the job rather than making it your life.

Do you plan on continuing?
I have been contemplating the idea of going back to social work, but if In2mates [his own business, providing relationship and sex counseling] works out I might not. We're running those out of an office above The Ivory Club. I might start relationship counseling on a professional level.

Do you do shows for men?
When I first started out I did a few at the Roost. Strangely enough they act just like normal guys at a ladies' club. It made me ask, is this how we treat the girls, is this how we sound? Dancing for girls is fun, they get into it, they're like, take it off, show us your cock... every now and then, you get one that says you're fat, or ugly, and you can't react. For every one girl that calls you fat or ugly, says you can't dance, you need to think or the other 400 that were screaming your name. But like most people, it's way easier to pick up on the negative than the positive. Two girls giving you a "thumbs down" can even stand out in a crowd.

JEFFREY GREENIAUS

SEE magazine

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letters

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY SHO and dismay of your choice for the latest "And You Are...?" feature (December 14/06, page 3). I will go right to the point.

To highlight a Palace Casino Pit Boss for this human interest feature during the middle of a long, ongoi strike is unnecessarily antagonistic, poorly considered and rather insul ing to the 200 workers braving cold winds outside the mall entrance.

The person you highlight has been actively crossing the picket li daily since the strike began. She is the heart of an unfortunate labour dispute, and her actions, in combi tion with the intransigence of the employer, are prolonging this strik

The decision to highlight a Palace Casino scab is particularly perplex ing given both the generally progr sive editorial stance of your paper and the fact that, six weeks ago, the UFCW purchased a full page ad in the magazine. I do not expect ad purchasing to colour your editorial choices, but the appearance of the demonstrates you know full well there is a labour dispute at that Ca no.

There are six other casinos in the Edmonton area. Could you not hav picked one of them to highlight? What possible benefit for the reader could be provided for picking the one casino in town in the midst of a controversial strike?

The feature is supposed to be a light, human-oriented element to the paper. By choosing to use Palace Ca no, you draw both this feature and your magazine into the middle of th strike. I cannot understand why.

By drawing attention to the casi and, in effect, encouraging readers patronize Palace, your decision is indirectly assisting the employer to prolong the strike, and undermini the position of the strikers.

We are deeply disappointed in your decision to highlight the Palace scab. We will be sharing our view on the matter with union member and other progressive organizatio in the city.

Sincerely,

Gil McGowan, Presid
Alberta Federation of Lab

SEE wants to hear from you.
Please send submissions of up to 300 word via fax, email or hard copy. All must inclu a first name or initial with surname, addre and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity. SEE won't pu lish letters addressed to other publications.

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MADD
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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witness

JEFFREY CROSSMAN

DECEMBER 21—Members of the Westwood Unitarian Congregation celebrate the Winter Solstice . The inner circle represents a bonfire, over which members jump and scream a wish for the new year.

STOCK-BLOCK

DOES NOBODY READ YOUR BLOG? DON'T FRET. NOBODY reads Stockwell Day's either.

Officials at Day's office drew a blank when asked about a post he made Dec 1 on his web site (www.stockwellday.com), wherein he took the piss out of Al Gore by writing that since it was so cold it was outside, he was "begging for Big Al's glacial belt." The post was removed after some B.C. papers called attention to it.

But so what? It's a *blog*. Day's logic (that an unusually chilly snap disproves global warming) is off-base, but why censor him? We say all our public figures should run blogs—not slick sites, but LiveJournal accounts, or MySpace pages (golly, who would Stephen Harper's top eight friends be?), or personal web sites that look like they were put togther by an undergrad in a first year web design class (here's lookin' at you, Stockwell).

Thanks to some creative Googling, the "offending" post is still available at http://www.stockwellday.com/feb1706.htm

Caveat: Stockwell doesn't know hot to use an apostrophe, and his blog is no more interesting than your kid sister's.

MALL ENVY

EDMONTON'S DUBIOUS CLAIM TO FAME, THE "WORLD'S LARGEST mall," is largest no longer. Actually, it hasn't been for a while, though the news has been slow to reach those of us who rely on the postcard industry for facts of local interest. WEM is now #4 on the list, soon to move down to #5 (!). Before city council calls for an expansion to reclaim our title by adding a fourth La Senza and a third Gap (better throw in a couple waterslides too), let's just allow our tenure as the world's largest to fall, inexorably and gracefully, into the past, where it belongs.

FYI, the world's biggest shopping centres, based on total leasable area:

Dubai Mall, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, - 9 million+ sq. ft (uncompleted)

South China Mall, Dongguan, China – 7.1 million sq. ft

Golden Resources Shopping Mall, Beijing, China – 6.0 million sq. ft

Mall of Asia, Pasay City, Philippines – 4.2 million sq. ft

West Edmonton Mall, Edmonton, Canada – 3.8 million sq. ft

"(HE) EMBODIED THE BEST VALUES OF A GREAT GENERATION: DECENCY, INTEGRITY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY.""

U. S. Vice President Dick Cheney on Presidential Gerald Ford

THE BITTER STING OF VICTORY

Rona Ambrose: Person of the Year

story Angela Brunschot

Environmental activists across the country should probably thank Rona Ambrose. Her controversial year as Minister of the Environment has exposed the Conservative party's lack of environmental policy. The Tory's minority government may have attempted to stall the environmental agenda, but the public pushed back and now we're heading towards the first national election in which the environment could play a central role.

Ambrose finds herself the poster-woman for the year the west got in, and for what our esteemed representatives did with their new-found power.

Whether you can't wait for the chance to oust the honourable representative for Edmonton-Spruce Grove for her withdrawal from Kyoto or pity the young spitfire faithfully following the Conservative line under the direction of a domineering Prime Minister Stephen Harper, her impact was felt from the grass roots of the environmental movement to the upper echelons of power on Capital Hill.

That's why ***SEE Magazine*** named Ambrose Person of the Year for 2006—not for her accomplishments as Minister of the Environment over the past year, but for the way she inadvertently highlighted Canada's embarrassing lack of action on climate change, and for underscoring how province-wide groupthink means Alberta politicians may fare badly when they face actual opposition.

As an Albertan who had connections with the oil-industry and a young woman, she was viewed as a person who could navigate both the province and the industry that most opposed environmental legislation, while still appealing to the general public. "She was a real star and expected to perform really well."

— Steve Patten, associate professor of political science, University of Alberta

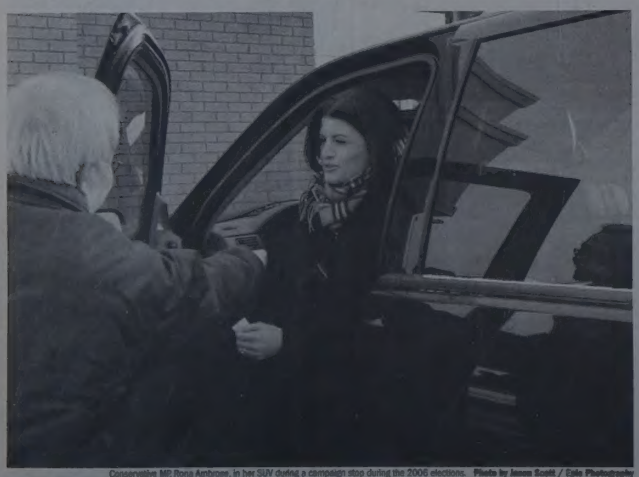
THE HONEYMOON

Rewind to the Conservative party's first policy convention in Montreal, March 2005. Ambrose was showcased as a bright young woman with style and potential, says Steve Patten, associate professor of political science at the University of Alberta. Early on, she proved she could stay on message. As a young, urban female, she was the perfect face for the Conservatives to present to the media, countering their image as old men from the sticks.

"Harper and others were very impressed with her," he says. "She was a real star and expected to perform really well."

When the Conservatives took power last January, she was given the post of Minister of the Environment, a heady achievement for a rookie MP and former junior bureaucrat. Patten insists her placement was a strategic choice. As an Albertan who had connections with the oil-industry and a young woman, she was viewed as a person who could navigate both the province and the industry that most opposed environmental legislation, while still appealing to the general public.

But neither Harper nor Ambrose counted on a marked shift in public opinion.



Conservative MP Rona Ambrose, in her SUV during a campaign stop during the 2006 elections. Photo by Jason Scott / Epic Photography

GREEN-COLOURED GLASSES

Pinpointing the exact moment when popular perceptions change is not an exact science, but the resurgence of the green agenda hit the Conservatives with a vengeance.

The environmental movement in Canada hasn't known the same kind of visibility since the late 1980s, says Patten. Then, scientists and activists were making dire predictions about polar ice caps melting and global warming changing our weather patterns. At the time Brian Mulroney's handpicked lieutenant Lucien Bouchard, then a Conservative, chose the Environment portfolio because he saw it as a subject of great concern.

Today, rather than listening to scientists and environmental activists talking about climate change, people are seeing wacky weather patterns and melting permafrost with their own eyes, says Lindsay Telfer, Prairie director of the Sierra Club. "Now we've seen the debate turn to 'how' instead of 'if.'"

Across the political spectrum, federal parti are focused on the environment. The Green Party, under former Mulroney government advisor Elizabeth May, has enjoyed more media exposure than ever before. The Liberals' new leader, Stephane Dion, is a former environment minister. At the leadership convention Dion even traded the traditional Liberal red for green on his campaign signs and supporters donned green scarves as his upset win shocked old-school Liberals.

Former Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney took the unusual step of warning the Harper government that middle class people cared about the environment and if the ambitious Calgarian wanted more than a year in office, he needed to start paying attention to the green agenda.

WALKING TARGET

The playing field has changed, says former Edmonton-Centre Liberal MP Anne McLellan.

"The way the Conservative's environmental policy has been received, which is very badly for most people, has provided Stephane and the Liberal party with a bigger opening than we expected."

People wanted to see immediate action on Kyoto targets, says Telfer, but the Conservative government put no importance on that process. The Clean Air Act was simply a stalling tactic, she says. "They delayed any kind of action. All of their targets for greenhouse gas emissions were 50 years into the future," she says. The Conservatives proposed three more

"As much as I believe that she was muzzled by the PMO, I think that as a minister she should have known that it was inappropriate."

— Lindsay Telfer, Prairie director of the Sierra Club

years of consultations with industry, when the Liberals had just finished three years of consultations and had finally come to some standards on fuel efficiency in cars.

From the activist's point of view, Ambrose was an easy target. The Liberals may not have done any better than the Conservatives on lowering greenhouse gas emissions, but they did say all the right things, making it difficult for activists to hit hard, says Telfer.

With Ambrose in charge, nobody was pulling any punches. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Nairobi provided the perfect opportunity for the Sierra Club, the Suzuki Foundation, and many other activist organizations to attack the Conservatives publicly and effectively, says Telfer. "How can you chair this process when you don't believe in it? That's what started the snow ball rolling."

For Telfer, Ambrose crossed the line when she brought partisan politics to the conference, blaming the previous Liberal government for Canada's failure to reach Kyoto targets, embarrassing Canada on the world stage. "As much as I believe that she was muzzled by the PMO, I think that as a minister she should have known that it was inappropriate."

Perhaps that was the moment when the tide began to turn on this once rising star.

TWISTING IN THE WIND

Perhaps her entire stint as Environment Minister was doomed from the start. A Conservative Alberta MP serving as Environment minister is "the equation from hell," says Lois Harder, a political science professor at the University of Alberta.

Now, Ambrose is discredited and reduced to smiling for the cameras as Harper makes announcements on her behalf. After Harper took it upon himself to announce the Conservatives new toxins strategy, a job usually left to the minister, the media has widely reported an upcoming cabinet shuffle that will move her out of the hot seat.

Many blame Harper for her poor performance. The Conservatives obviously underestimated the importance of the issue and were caught unprepared when voter concern about global warming rose to the surface. Harper's reputation as a micro-manager meant she had little choice but to dance to his tune, says McLellan.

Even her lack of experience can be defended as a move towards gender-equality and nurturing young leaders, says Patten.

"If we say no, she wasn't ready because she didn't have a long enough career or because she wasn't senior enough—that would be like saying the only people who can be cabinet ministers are the economic and bureaucratic

Burning though a number of communications directors and chiefs of staff probably didn't help the situation. "You have to have good people around you, people you trust and people who are loyal to you first," says McLellan.

THE ALBERTA DISADVANTAGE

The former deputy Prime Minister sympathizes with Ambrose's position, as both women have been the targets of sexist criticisms: McLellan for her high-pitched voice and Ambrose for her too perfect hair.

But, sisterly devotion doesn't stop McLellan from pointing out weaknesses in the rival party.

Remember Stockwell Day in a wetsuit, hopping off his ski-doo and you get a sense of the political tradition behind Ambrose. Albertans, our current Prime Minister included, certainly seem awkward on the federal scene. Some dismiss their faults as inexperience. After all, the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives only recently merged and ended a 13-year Liberal reign in Ottawa. But others, including McLellan, think a lack of challenges at home means Conservatives miss out on vital political training.

"Certainly, it's much easier for Conservatives to get elected out of a province like Alberta than it is for a Liberal," says McLellan. Other parties must work harder to make a strong case for election, she says. All that practice defending ideas and honing debate skills pays off.

"The voters of this province should not be giving them a free ride, because I do believe it ends up in poor quality representation for the people of this province. I feel quite strongly about that."

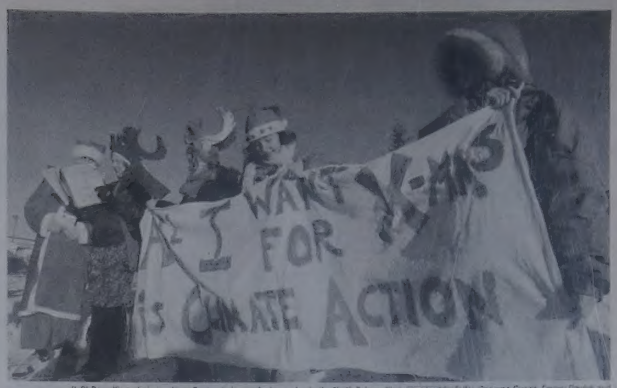
A LITTLE RESPONSIBILITY PLEASE

But does any of that let Ambrose off the hook? Should Edmonton voters cut her some slack? She was, after all, dealing with a party with members like Day who still question the existence of global warming.

"Well, no," says Harder. "She ran for that party and that's who she's decided to be in bed with."

She and Harper were-cozy in their opposition days, says Harder. "She was totally sucking up to Harper all though their time in opposition. You'd see her sitting beside him during question period and just congratulating him on every last little thing. She obviously has her eye on the prize."

Minister of the most besieged department of a minority government, possibly about to face a federal election focused on a topic some say the Conservatives really botched—probably not what she had in mind. Consider this dubious honour a consolation prize.



(L-R) Dean King, playing a skinny Santa who's out of a home due to the North Pole melting, joins Lindsay Telfer, Genevieve Guenn, Franny Rawlyk and Kevin Wright in demonstrating with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition outside MP Rona Ambrose's Edmonton office on Thursday afternoon (Dec. 14/06). The demonstrators claimed Ambrose, Canada's environment minister, hasn't done enough to improve the nation's role in reversing global warming.
Photo by Lyle Aspinall / St Albert Gazette

A YEAR OF CONSERVATIVE RULE

Getting It Wrong, The Alberta Way

story Craig Elliot

When the Conservatives won that electio.. and it's still less than a year ago that they did it—there was this impossibly smug attitude that blasted out of Alberta like the Devil's own halitosis that was along the lines of, "You just watch. These guys are going to fix everything that's wrong, and then, FINALLY, everything will be alright."

Hopes were definitely soaring at the time. It was "too bad" that Prime Minister Stephen Harper had to represent the rest of the country in his choices for cabinet ministers, especially considering the unquestioning generosity of Albertans in electing 28 of the Conservatives' 28 candidates to Parliament. But the important thing, for the 66.6 per cent of voters from Edmonton–Spruce Grove who chose her and also for every other knee-jerking, Conservative-voting Albertan, was that the West, via Rona Ambrose, was in, and we had an objectivist Environment Minister who believed in the power of free markets and "rational self-interest" to solve their own problems and repair their own damage. She was going to show "those people" down in Ottawa how things got done the Alberta Way. Right down to the hairdo.

"Yeesh," thought everyone who wasn't quite such an easy touch with their vote, but it didn't seem right not to give the Conservatives a chance before we started complaining, even if we already knew what was going to happen.

And now, less than a year later, we get a sense of the true strength of the Conservative win, and the true believers can believe something different if they have to, but their heroes are not going to win a majority government in the next six to twelve months. They are probably not even going to win the next election, but before that happens, Rona Ambrose will no longer be Environment Minister, and her foray into environmental matters will make as good an example of any of what's gone wrong with our Conservative heroes.

DITCHING KYOTO

Let's start here: ***The Hill Times*** reported that it had it on good authority that as of October 2006, the minister had not yet been briefed on the science of climate change. That did not, however, stop her from announcing much earlier that Canada couldn't meet its Kyoto commitments. Not minding that the majority of Canadians support Kyoto because vative Party line at the time, Ambrose told Parliament during question period that every car and truck in the country would have to be pulled off the road, every train and plane would have to be shut down, every light shut off, and we still wouldn't be able to do it.

And so, why bother to try, right? The highly popular One Tonne Challenge program was cancelled, as well as other subsidy programs for retrofitting homes to save energy; from the minister we heard not a peep. Though she ***would*** crab about the previous Canadian government in addresses to an international audience at the United freaking Nations and she ***would*** begin developing a reputation for not returning the phone calls of people she disagreed with (and also as something of a meeting misser, too). A few months later, she introduced to Parliament an attempt at environmental legislation that fell completely short of any reasonable mark. And just to show that she, like the majority of Albertans, really digs the Strong Leader bit, Ambrose's office stopped an Environment Canada scientist from speaking about a ***science fiction novel*** he wrote regarding global warming!

ASK THE SPOTTED OWL

But all that's on the climate change front, and though we might think that it was the most important aspect of Ms. Ambrose's portfolio, we might also notice that it was the one most requiring collective action, the type of action to which she is most ideologically opposed. How did she do at other aspects of her job, like helping endangered species? You could ask a northern spotted owl, if you can find one. Their population dropped from 22 to 17, and Environment Minster Ambrose went on the record as saying there was "no imminent threat" to the species' survival and recovery. Seems likely she doesn't return their phone calls, either.

"Hmmm," we could say to ourselves, "she sure is lucky she's not a Liberal from another province, or Jack Layton, or else we'd really have to let her have it." But, seeing as she's a Conservative from Alberta, we'll studiously ignore her lack of vision and lack of enthusiasm for the portfolio, at least until Stephen Harper does what everyone's expecting, any moment now. And what will we do after that? We'll breathe a sigh of relief that there's another Albertan coming down the pike to take

The year in review

Money, mayhem, Mandel, and more

Jan 23: Stephen Harper elected Prime Minister of Canada. Wow, less than a year? Feels longer.

Feb 5: Ralph Bucks start rolling in. Spend! Enjoy! You need an iPod more than the province needs affordable housing or schools.

Feb 13: *Western Standard* publishes controversial Danish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. (Hey, how come no one noticed our cartoon Jesus in the back pages?)

Mar 31: The king is dead. Progressive Conservatives give Ralph Klein 55.4 per cent approval rating.

Apr 3: Parliament begins spring session with Conservatives at the helm for the first time in 13 years. Surprisingly, the sun still rises and the Rapture fails to make an appearance. Maybe minority governments don't count.

May 1: Whyte Ave fills with partiers after the Oilers beat the Detroit Red Wings and win the first round of the Stanley Cup. Who knew the hangover would last into 2007?

June 15: And it wasn't just out-of-town yobs causing a fuss. Edmonton police officer Sebastien Berube gets suspended without pay for his behaviour while off-duty and partying it up on Whyte Ave.

July 20: StatsCan reports the Edmonton area has the most murders per capita in all of Canada. But please, don't tell my mom. She still thinks Edmonton is safer than Toronto.

Aug 3: Three Canadian soldiers die in Afghanistan: Sgt. Vaughn Ingram, Cpl. Bryce Jeffrey Keller, and Pte. Kevin Dallaire. They were all based out of Edmonton with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Sept 13: Mayor Stephen Mandel announces $60-million revitalization plan for downtown east. Let's hope this plan is worth the paper it's written on.

Oct 21: And the violence continues. Russell Ross, a homeless Edmontonian, is found beaten and later dies in hospital. Three teens are arrested in relation to his death.

Nov 29: Mandel unveils first-time homeowners pilot project, which puts starter homes on vacant school lands. Enter NIMBYism stage left and elitism stage right.

Dec 2: Stéphane Dion elected as leader of the federal Liberals. Election pools add 2 per cent to GDP.

The new Albertan

Toronto transplant shares her impressions

THE WEST HAS A VERY STRANGE REP back east. There's envy, sure. Strange rumours circulate about McDonald's employees getting paid $20 an hour. There's also complete ignorance. I've already fielded several phone calls from Toronto and my hometown, London, Ont., asking how I'm surviving out west with the farmers. All I can do is shake my head.

So, for what it's worth, a former Ontarian's impressions of Edmonton and Alberta after two and a half months.

THE GOOD SIDE

1. Dry air rocks! I'm breathing easier and I've beaten acne without celebrity-endorsed creams and lotions.

2. Family Day, which isn't celebrated in Ontario, falls just after my birthday. Who wouldn't love a province where every birthday is a long weekend?

3. The river valley is gorgeous. Edmonton puts Toronto to shame in this regard.

4. Even considering the city's low vacancy rate, rent is still cheaper.

5. People are much friendlier here. When you tell people in Toronto you're new in town they look at you like you're a geeky grade nine kid trying to sit with the seniors in the cafeteria. Here, people practically hug you.

6. The LRT is much cleaner than the Toronto subway. Rodents are no way to start your morning.

7. Fewer crowds mean a greater respect for personal space.

8. People dress casually, which means I never feel like a bum.

9. Since Alberta elects so many Conservatives, supporting any other party feels like sticking it to the man. (Whereas in my old Toronto-Danforth riding, Jack Layton ruled the roost and the provincial NDP nomination was more a coronation than the selection of a candidate)

10. Once I've survived the winter here, I'll have bragging rights over all my friends and family back east.

THE BAD SIDE

1. Public transportation in Edmonton is a disgrace. What were planners thinking when the routes were mapped out?

2. The nights are darker. No kidding. Maybe it's the big sky feeling or less light pollution, but the nights are darker.

3. People think six-story buildings are high density.

4. Groceries are more expensive.

5. City politicians are so polite they hardly argue in city council meetings.

6. Rule by the Progressive Conservatives goes almost unquestioned.

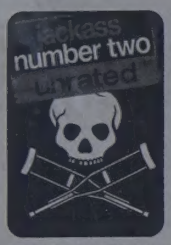
7. Customer service here sucks. If the store is open, the dressing rooms must also be open. Period.

8. People dress casually, which means more people on the bus in sweatpants.

9. There simply aren't enough cabs here.

10. Holy Mother, it's unbelievably cold! Dry cold or not, it's much, much worse than Ontario. And I've never seen so much snow in my life. But still, people wear running shoes! In Toronto, we'd have called in the army long ago. Edmontonians, you're a tough bunch.

ANGELA BRUNSCHO



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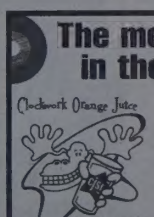

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SEE

Clockwork Orange Juice 7-9 a.m Wed's on CISR 88.5

From socks to politics

Best of the bizarre in 2006

REV. OF FISH GRIWKOWSKY'S TWENTY-six bests.

Best way to spend 160 hours instead of playing art: Oblivion, Xbox 360, specifically decorating my Frostcrag Spire wizard's tower with dungeon skulls. What? It's a kind of art. Just like your MySpace page, wiseass.

Most inspiring 2006 novel: Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, the uplifting tale of a father and son pushing a broken shopping cart along the lifeless highway starving to death in ashen, post-apocalyptic America.

Most wicked concert, '06: Is this even possible—not Neko Case? Lots of us tried to top of another, but David Lee Roth at Ed's was more wild, crazy, singable and just plain fun than anything else—even Pink Mountaintops. Lord help us all.

HIDDEN NINJA
FISH GRIWKOWSKY

Hottest new celebrity: James Brown, working up afterlife sweat in whichever direction he went. Also, the guy that plays Victor Newman on Y&R. Look out for that career to skyrocket!

Best "compact disc": Another weird one, but Slayer's *Christ Illusion* saw heaviest rotation, unless you count 2005's tasty MIA leftovers. Bah. Nah. Nah.

Best place to buy socks: Uh, the Gap What, no better category than this?

TV worth more than its weight in gold *Battlestar Galactica* continues to freak me out weekly, especially when those greedy fuckers dared to split season 2 into two box sets, a horrible, asshole trend this year. So maybe not "gold," really. But Baltar slowly is becoming better than Darth Vader

Best thing to do in a bathtub, 2006 Easily it's win five touch-tower levels of *Tetris DS* second place going to "wash that ass

Greatest magazine of the year: A tie between *Maclean's* and *The Economist's* annual state of the world report. Sweet, sexy news analysis

Best city on the human planet Earth. Barcelona, if only for the lady who makes money by bringing cats in circus costumes to just sit there on La Rambla, one of the world's busiest streets

Best annual reason they invented film Three words—Borat's helper's testicles. Sorry about that, Reba McIntyre's new video

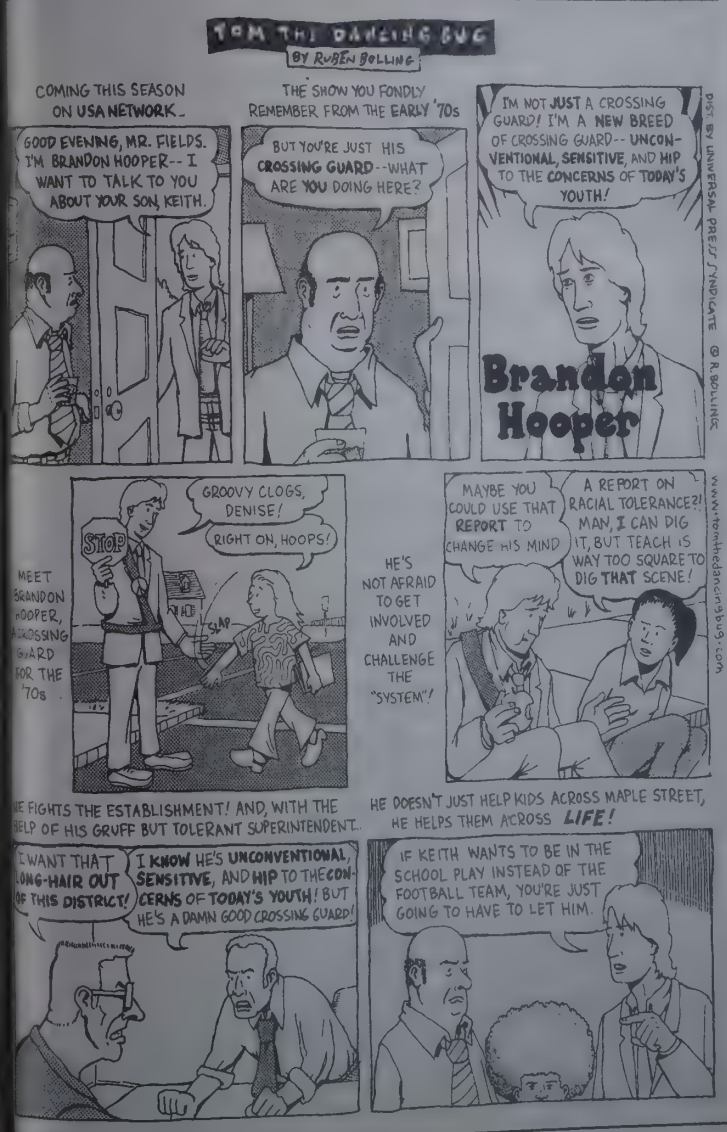
Worst owners, ever. Quebecor, slowly gouging the *Edmonton Sun* into Toronto-centric, standardized nothingness while going on about making money off the Internet

Least missed commuter rag in a non-commuter city *Dose*, obviously. Ah, *Dose* What a great idea.

Sneakiest Stephen Harper move: The "peacekeeper to peacemaker" thing, giving Canada the lion's share of front-line Afghanistan, the country that drained the Soviet Union to extinction. Also, calling "Quebecois" a nation, instead of Quebec Actually, it's as brilliant as it is mean

Best NHL team, 2006 You don't [illegible] recall how this turned out? The Carolina Hurricanes, remember? That little blond shit smiling? Leaving the Sidetrack five seconds later? Being depressed for weeks?

And best reason to live 2006 Love [illegible] you don't have it yet, there's always this year. Good luck and hang in there!



RANT ACID
CHRISTMAS BURP

You know its sounds awful but I really don't like Christmas. I'm tired of catching flack for stating that exact opinion. It's supposed to be time of caring and helping others... but what do we usually end up doing? You know damn well.... We end up running around trying to buy everything under the sun for everyone we ever met. We stuff our faces until we're sick and then all we do is complain about how much money we spent (or wasted) and how tired and stressed out we are because all we did during the whole holidays was to run around. What we need to do is simply wish all our loved ones a Merry Christmas and help out those less fortunate, even if it's a simple gesture. It will make you feel a lot better than getting sick on Grandma's turkey.

No Scrooge

CLEAR YOUR THROAT
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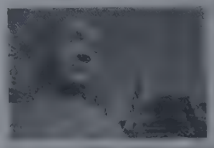

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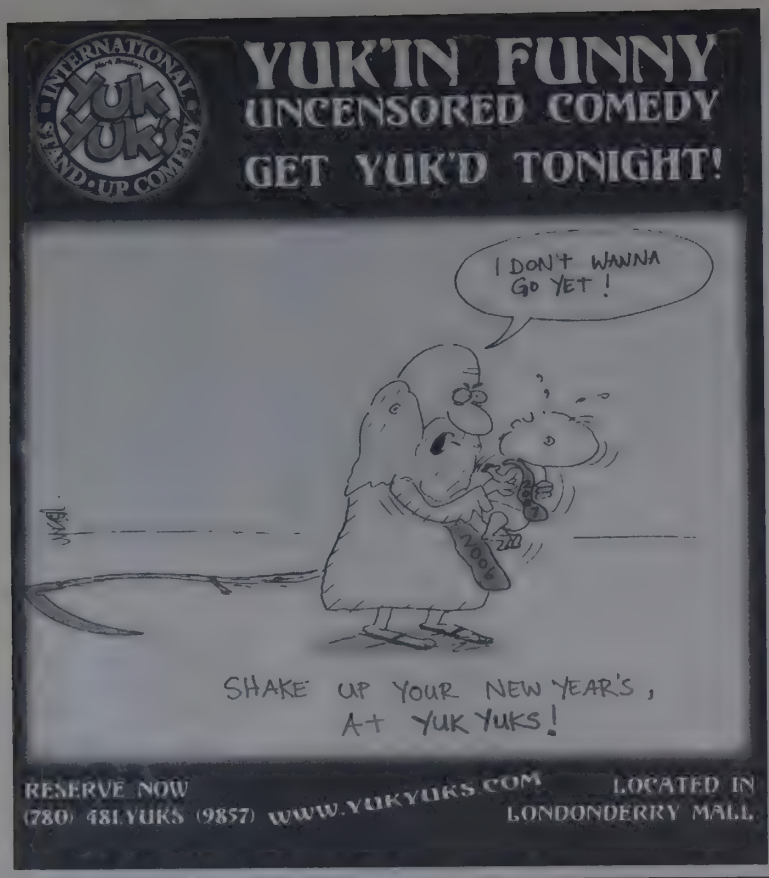


in print

RE:READING

JAY SMITH

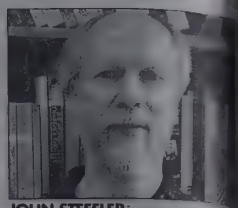
FORGETTING 2006

'TIS THE SEASON TO REPRESS OUR MOST recent bout of hyperconsumption, both economic and culinary. There's an eggnog-induced bulge around the tummy and an empty wallet in your pocket—an ultimately slimming effect, one hopes, when one wears the jeans that were so fetching on December 1st. So let's just forget our Bacchus-bruised bodies and "Retour à la normal!"

But no: Through the mental obscuration that is some twelve days of accumulated hangover, we are forced by society to endeavour some thoughtful retrospection about the year that is gone. (But not too thoughtful, because that would endanger the alcohol-weakened cerebral vessels.)

So we select the "best of 2006" items, as if 360-some days of a particular calendar year is sufficient for historical perspective. The best-of-best-of-best-of. For books, it's usually a list of titles you don't recognize and won't read because when the time comes, when you're in a library or in a bookstore and blanking on what to take home with you, it's already months later and stupidity again infringes on your sense of self. You've forgotten already.

So let's forget 2006. Old = Bad. New = Good. At least for the purposes of this column, we look exclusively to the new.



JOHN STEFFLER

POET ON THE HILL

Here's some news: Canada has a ne poet laureate. John Steffler won our other names you probably don't re in being selected for the prestigious Steffler is a Toronto-born poet, wh Newfoundland and Labrador for m life, and is now a scholar-in-residence Concordia University in Montreal

Sharply deviating from the expectation industry watchers, Canada's third poet la ate claims he will use his position to increa the prominence of poetry in Canada

Quill and Quire also reports that Ste will bide his time in Ottawa writing poe sponsoring readings, and advising the pa liamentary librarian.

COMIC MAKEOVER

In a rather impressive show of respon ism, blogs throughout the blogosp up in arms about Betty, Veronica, an Archie gang getting NEW looks. The of immortal teenagers, until recently pretty much the same as they did when were created, over 65 years ago T mature, less stylized drawing style fo al has set off a firestorm of controversy.

"Archie seemingly has a normal everyd physique, while B&V look like twig could snap in two," one commentator n in the blog Galleycat's report. "I realize comic books aren't known for their real anatomy, but comics like this specifica designed to court younger, and femal readers, really should take care not to ind trinate such a double standard."

Thankfully, the extreme makeover is o for one issue—unless it proves popular. to http://www.mediabistro.com/galley and search "Betty Veronica."

FINDING AL-QAEDA

Gallery Cat also announces the NE bestseller in Britain: an Al Qaeda-es ody of **Where's Waldo**. The title? Whe Bin Laden? Readers search through cha scenes to find Osama, his henchmen, e weapons such as scimitars or dynamite t dles. The book, published by newly wea New Holland, will likely find a North Ame can publisher before long.

LOCAL FARE

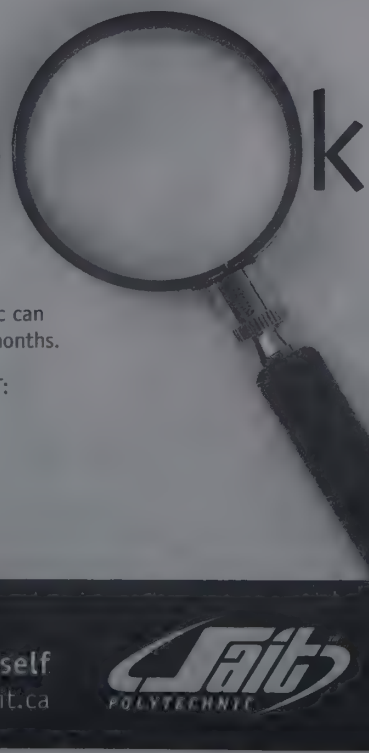
Back in Edmonton, there are plenty ways to celebrate all things new. Clean your bookshelves and breath deeply M some resolutions.

Visit the nearest branch of your pub library and—gasp!—pay your fines! ("the have, in the past, been known to offer p amnesty for excessive debts. Don't ask how we know.) Even if you end up paying monthly installments, EPL is worth support Besides, it's still probably cheaper than ren ing movies from Blockbuster.

Support local literary talent. Folks l and writing in our city need love, h Whereas belonging to John Grisham's boo club does constitute community belongi chances are you'll never meet Mr. Grish himself, nor will he ever mention Edmont in his books. Not true for the poor, isolat writer down the block.

So consider heading down to Audre on January 4th (Thursday) at 7:30 pm g hearing Edmontonian Alan Reed read fr his poetry collection, ***For the Love of th City***. (We think he means Edmonton there.)

Take a closer look



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Visualizing 2006

Architecture everywhere and biggest show

OKING BACK ON 2006, EDMONTON ainly had architecture on the ind. From the re-quoting of Mayor andel's "zero crap tolerance" that ead like wildfire throughout the re to the recent announcement of $200 million expansion and re-sign for the Royal Alberta Muse-n, here are some of the other archi-ural highlights from this past ar.

Obviously, the **Art Gallery of Alberta**'s shortlist of international signers drew a gasp. The winning d went to the curvy titanium reo borealis" inspired design by ndall Stout—who admittedly has ack record of pushing out very ilar designs for each individual ject. In the future, those looking rtheast from Churchill Square bet-put their blinders on during sun-and sun-down. Planned for 2010, e AGA's re-design is setting tone the limits of acceptability in public sign.

Lisa Rochon comes steam-rolling town. *The Globe and Mail*'s art n, as well as adjunct professor at e University of Toronto, Rochon me in blasting the new AGA sign as a copy (mainly hinting wards the imitation of Gehry), and w Edmonton needs more "green" ace. She may have bypassed the er valley altogether, but she did e Peter Hemingway's glowing k cascade (The Coronation Pool, on to be renamed in honour of the e architect) as her favorite build-g in Edmonton. Rochon came in e challenging Edmonton to be e "urban", and directly or not, dmonton has accepted.

2006 AIA Gold Medal Winner ntoine Predock, who has been en the challenge to design the man Rights Museum in Win-peg, presents a bio-slide show of life and work to the city's crop of designers and architects at the Royal Alberta Museum. From motorcycles to modern dance, Predock's exten sive lecture reflected his life—all of which was too much to handle in one sitting, but was nevertheless as fascinating as the man himself

■ **Cranes in the sky**. Walking anywhere in the city core, you would have surely seen giant cranes hovering over our street corners. The new $46.1 million Health Care Learning Centre on the corner of 109 Street and 104 Avenue will be a blessing from the rest of the eyesores on 104th. But the boom apparently just keeps on booming.

And a block down from the re-construction of the old Hudson Bay Building/U of A downtown campus, on the former site of the Bentall Building wreckage, will be the new site for the Don Wheaton YMCA With a swimming pool, gymnasium, multipurpose common spaces, boardrooms, and other community-oriented sections, cranes in the sky point towards interesting change for the future.

BIGGEST SHOW OF THE YEAR

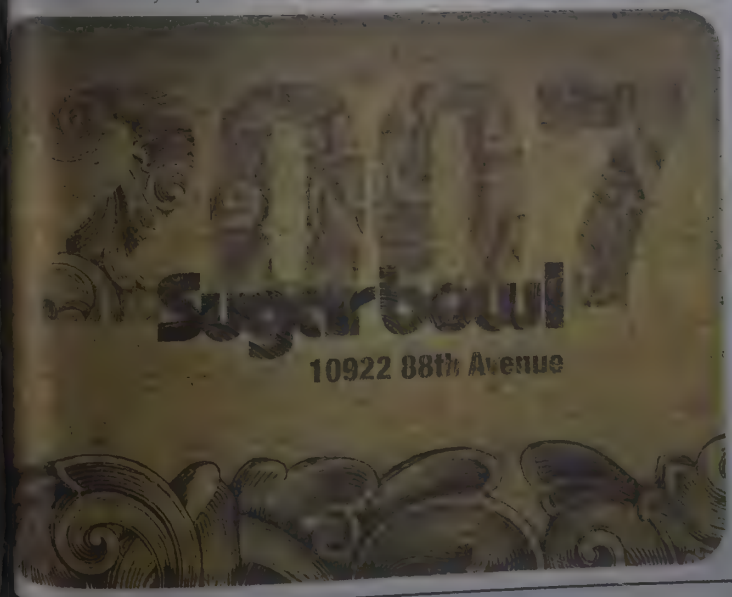
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE LOUDEST buzz this year goes to **Art Bar**. A lot of ink has been spilt over this piece, and this is just one last drop before we can hopefully shuffle this into a dustbin of forgettable memories "Designed" by current MFA student Jesse Sherburne, the bar on the second floor of the AGA remains open long after its initial run. More of a technical problem—gutting the room before renovations begin—than the product of its assumed popularity, Art Bar is a concept that not only has been done before but was never fully realized.

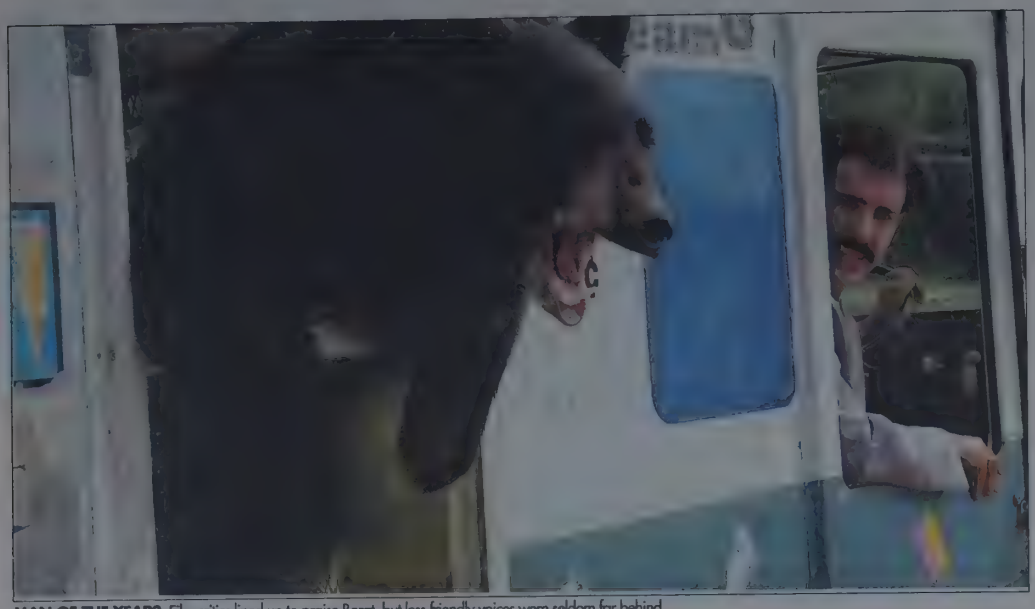
For starters, artist Karen Tam also re-created a non-functioning social space (a Chinese restaurant) in the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba this year. Sharing a similar idea of playing with the conventions of space and relation, only loaded with cultural and social signifiers, Tam's piece resonated with a level of substance direly lacking in Sherburne's.

Resembling more of his interior design projects (bar favourites such as Savoy and Halo), Art Bar was more of an exercise in bar design—which isn't necessarily a dialogue in art but more of an exercise in self-promotion

Every hipster in town attended the opening and drew a record crowd to the art gallery. In that sense, well done, but perhaps over-done?

AMY FUNG





MAN OF THE YEAR? Film critics lined up to praise Borat, but less friendly voices were seldom far behind

Didja catch these?

SEE film mavens round up the best of 2006

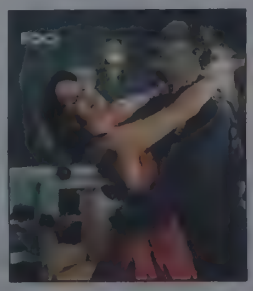
SCOTT LINGLEY'S YEAR IN REVIEW

Biggest Balls=Biggest Laughs: *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America For Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhs*—We're having second thoughts now as lawsuits and claims of emotional distress pile up from its unwitting participants, but at the time how could we help but laugh at Sascha Baron Cohen's brazen, outrageous and utterly tasteless one-man/one-joke show? With its runaway success snuffing any chance of a sequel, it's time to admit that Cohen delivers the performance of a lifetime in a movie experience that is unlikely to be duplicated.

Biggest Surprise: *Pan's Labyrinth*—Guillermo Del Toro's Hollywood B-pictures (*Blade 2*, *Hellboy*) and his more accomplished Spanish-language phantasms (*Cronos*, *The Devil's Backbone*) certainly didn't prepare me for the tantalizingly dark and grisly *Pan's Labyrinth*, a deeply frightening fairy tale for grown-ups that posits two parallel worlds equally fraught with peril for the adopted daughter of a cruel fascist general in post-civil war Spain. Nasty, but totally absorbing.

Best Return to Form: *The Departed*—Though the final product has its flaws, Martin Scorsese hasn't delivered such intense, exciting, and unpretentious entertainment in something like a decade, and he finally gets that great performance he's been looking for from the anguished Leonardo DiCaprio, whose chops are matched by a bat-shit-crazy Jack Nicholson, with great support from Matt Damon, Alec Baldwin, and Mark Wahlberg.

Most Bang for the Buck: *Fido*—Andrew Currie's enjoyably eccentric, Canadian-made zombie comedy boasts a pretty impressive cast (Billy Connolly, Carrie Anne Moss, et al) and some truly gorgeous set design and cinematography, especially for a movie that cost less to make than most Hollywood films spend on catering.



Best Western from a Non-Western Producing Nation: *The Proposition*—John Hillcoat's gritty Australian frontier drama boasted startling depth thanks to a poetically brutal screenplay by Nick Cave and a stellar cast including Ray Winstone, Guy Pearce, and Emily Watson, all wrapped up in stunning landscape cinematography that would have made Sergio Leone proud.

Most Grueling Documentary: *Lake of Fire*—Tony Kaye's three-hour exploration of the abortion debate in America not only exposes you to some of the scariest nutjobs ever to thump a bible, but also includes actual footage of "life-termination procedures" in real abortion clinics to graphically show you what they're so upset about. Though liable to test even the strongest constitution, its admirable attempt at balance delivers a real sense of what's at stake in the battle between pro-choice and pro-life.

Best Film by a Director Portraying an Unrepentant Jerk: *Climates*—Who knows why Turkish auteur Nuri Bilge Ceylan decided to star as the self-absorbed academic Isa, or why he cast his real-life wife, Ebru Ceylan, as the object of his cruel whims, but the disintegration of their affections are nigh-palpable in the film's long, wordless opening that introduces the couple on a joyless beach holiday. Ceylan's overwhelming widescreen compositions—he shot and edited as well as writing, producing and starring—give existential heft to the plight of a mostly unlikable human whose selfish quest for emotional fulfillment leaves plenty of wreckage in its wake.

Best Film with Jennifer Aniston: *Friends with Money*—And by this I mean, best film EVER with Jennifer Aniston, because it doesn't start from the assumption that there's something intrinsically appealing about the former Mrs. Pitt. Nicole Holofcener's study of the class differences between a group of well-off Californian women and their sole unambitious, unsuccessful friend is filled with subtly vicious observations about getting older, selling out and losing the thread of one's life. Like Neil LaBute, but watchable.

Most Welcome Return to 35mm: *Spirit of the Beehive*—Victor Erice's haunting, almost subliminal examination of a little girl's entrée into adult realities via her own fantasy world, made in 1971, returned to the big screen in a new 35mm print that showed at Metro Cinema this summer (as did new prints of Jean Renoir's visually sumptuous *The River* and Henri-Georges Clouzot's oddball thriller *Quai des Orfèvres*). So ineffably beautiful and haunting I watched it twice in one week.

Worst Film of 2006: It really couldn't get much worse than the star-studded stinkbomb that was Steve Zaillian's remake of *All the King's Men* (which certainly features the worst performance of 2006 in Sean Penn's portrayal of Willie Stark, less corrupt Southern demagogue than highly ambulatory stroke victim). But no movie left me with the feeling I hadn't actually seen a movie at all so much as Brian DePalma's *The Black Dahlia*, in which the most sensational unsolved crime of the 20th century is transformed into an incoherent ramble through a mannequin factory circa 1949, with little of the characteristic perversity that has made DePalma one of mainstream cinema's more interesting hacks.

A Bad Year for: Character actors—Along with maverick filmmaker Robert Altman—who received a remarkably well-timed Lifetime Achievement Oscar this year—a lot of famous faces whose names might be hard to recall also passed on in 2006: Jack Palance, Jack Warden, Bruno Kirby, Maureen Stapleton, Chris Penn, Dennis Weaver, Glenn Ford, Peter Boyle, Darren McGavin, Mako, Al Lewis, Don Knotts, Shelley Winters, Moira Shearer, Red Buttons, Tamara Dobson, Paul Gleason, etc. RIP.

JERRY WHITE'S TOP TEN PLUS

All these films played in Edmonton during 2006, although some of them only got one screening. I give them here in alphabetical order.

CSA: Confederate States of America The fake newsreel showing Abraham Lincoln giving an interview from his Canadian exile is hopelessly anachronistic (Lincoln would have been about 120 when the first sound cameras came on line) and yet is also quite moving; the entire film is defined by that sort of push and pull between the flawed and the powerful.

Interkosmos Ah, the joy of discovery. Intensely goofy and yet also quite sincere, this was more evidence of a small renaissance in American independent film, a renaissance with a particularly strong mock-doc sector.

Iron Island A spare, sometimes brutal allegory from Iran's Mohammad Rasoulof. The performances could not have been better, nor could the sense of claustrophobia been more richly evoked.

The Journals of Knud Rasmussen For me this was better than *Atanarjuat*, both visually and in terms of subject matter. It had a certain geo-political seriousness to it, and a very profound sense of melancholy too, as we witness the first moments of a civilisation's collapse.

Keane More American renaissance. This portrait of a mentally unstable man just barely on this side of homelessness worked very hard indeed to put the viewer right inside of its protagonist's troubled head. Definitely Lodge Kerrigan's best work so far; he gets better and more assured with each film.

Manufactured Landscapes Borderline, but still quite nice. Mostly this is because of Peter Mettler, the film's cinematographer (and master filmmaker himself, most famous for *Gambling, Gods and LSD*), who does try to give a sense of movement and visual complexity to what is essentially a lecture. The opening tracking shot is a virtuoso performance. Although it may seem similar, this is way, way, way, way better than *An Inconvenient Truth*.

The Sun Alexander Sokurov remains totally unpredictable from film to film. This completes his "dictator's

MBRE SUN Sokurov's Hirohito inhabits a compelling creepy milieu

gy" (*Moloch* is about Hitler and rus is about Lenin) with a medi- on on the postwar fate of Emper- Hirohito. Robert Dawson as Gen- Douglas MacArthur is deeply d, indeed, all the performances of a piece with this film's sus- ed creepy instability.

Oh please, sophisticated Torontonians, tell me more about how uniquely multicultural your metropolis is... I just can't get enough..."

Canoes This is, in some ways, Australian *Atanarjuat*, a film ed on an incredibly old oral tale, during the pre-contact era, and in an aboriginal language. The rence is that it's directed by a e guy, Rolf de Heer, although great Australian actor David mpilil was a key collaborator (his Jamie stars). This is as visually as anything de Heer has done so and far more serious too.

ee Rooms of Melancholia As a ditation on the deterioration of Russian Empire as seen from the ucuses, this film will tell you far re than any documentary you are y to see on the subject. As a ic consideration of youth, inno- ce and corruption, it is as moving ny elegy. It could only be made n outsider, in this case the nish documentarian Pirjo nkasalo.

ver Probably Pedro Almodóvar's film yet, and sure evidence that working at the top of his form. body gets better work out of esses, and no filmmaker makes feel as privileged to see everyday ractions between women.

D...

n I'm most sorry I missed: Clive lden's *Trains of Winnipeg*
t reparatory experience: Jean oir's *The River*
t Canadian film that hasn't own in Edmonton yet: Gary ns' *Radiant City*
st annoying moment in the annals of film criticism: The Toronto Film Critics Association voting *L'Enfant* "Best Foreign Language Film" for 2006 (it's not on my list here because it was on my list last year, which is when it played in Edmonton). OK, now let's just pause to review the Canadian constitution (or, if that has too many big words, a cereal box or something). French in case you (like about 30 film critics in Toronto) didn't know it's a foreign language. They may as well have given this award to *The Queen* (also a foreign film, also not in a foreign language). Oh please, sophisticated Torontonians, tell me more about how uniquely multicultural your metropolis is, how richly internationalist and cosmopolitan a place you live in! I just can't get enough of this sort of thing from the denizens of a city so relentlessly Anglophone that its film critics think French is a foreign language! No, no, that sort of solipsistic parochialism isn't in the least bit pathetic!

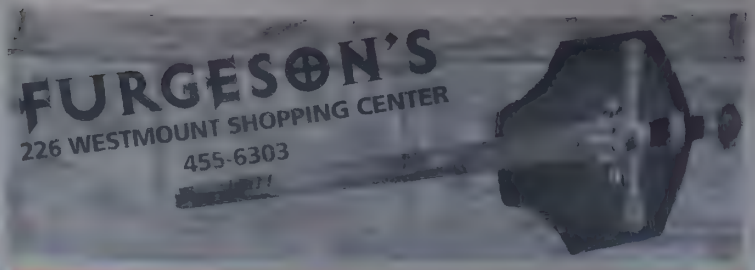
MARI SASANO'S TEN BEST (AND FIVE ALSO GOOD)

Half Nelson Amazing. Ryan Gosling and Shareeka Epps are heartbreaking sides of the same coin in this quiet indie about addiction, poverty, and Marxism.

Infamous A pity that *Capote* stole this film's thunder. Where that one was a solemn and reverent portrait of the author, *Infamous* flits and dances, barely concealing the deep flaws of the flamboyant Capote, and his love/rivalry with his best friend, Harper Lee.

The Journals of Knud Rasmussen More low-key than director Zacharias Kunuk's previous film, *Knud Rasmussen* is a condemnation of both colonialisation and Christianity in the north. Harsh, but sticks with you.

See Top Ten, page 16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YOU ARE MY *SUNSHINE* Even if you are an outcast loser

Little Miss Sunshine Tailor-made for the outcast losers in us all, a reassuring film that lets us love our dysfunctional families. At least we know how to have a good time.

The Matador Most people missed out on this weird, hilarious thriller featuring a fully de-Bonded Pierce Brosnan.

Banlieu 13 The most exciting part of this movie—car chases? Explosions? Nah. Two guys running on foot. Amazing action, with a veneer of social conscience.

Borat The only thing more uncomfortable than watching faux-Anti-Semite/misogynist Borat was seeing regular folks agreeing with him. And I'm talking about the audience.

Shortbus A loose (in all senses of the word), emotionally complex sex manifesto—nothing you would expect from something with that much explicit penetration.

Friends With Money Wonderful Nicole Holofcener's second feature, a talky, grown-up look at four women and the choices that they made, splitting a circle of friends by class.

Also-rans: *Akeelah and the Bee, Ushpizin, Wristcutters: A Love Story, Tristram Shandy, The Science of Sleep*

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CELIA NICHOLLS' TERRIBLE SECRET AND TOP TEN

I'm about to make what must seem like, at least for a so-called film critic, a career-breaking confession: I don't go to the movies very much. Thus 2006 might well be noteworthy for all the (I'm assuming) great films I haven't actually got around to seeing yet. I haven't seen *Volver*, a supposedly triumphant return to form for Pedro Almodovar, and certainly Penelope Cruz's best film in ages. (At the North American premiere of the film at the Telluride Film Festival, I did get caught in the middle of a surreal discussion between Cruz and the iconoclastic film journalist David Thomson, about the latter's new book on Nicole Kidman—but that's another story entirely). I haven't seen *Babel*, Alejandro González Iñárritu's triumphant conclusion to the trilogy he began with *Amores perros* and *21 Grams*. I haven't seen Sascha Baron Cohen's big screen outing as *Borat*, the ridiculous Kazakh journalist who manages to skewer mercilessly, and with a certain irreverent flair, American hypocrisy in its many and varied forms.

Yet the fact that I'm woefully behind the times strikes me as a good thing in a way, since, out of embarrassing necessity, my list is unlikely to resemble any other year-end list you'll see. Hoping to escape the instantly ossified canon of the typical top ten, then, I present ten different, truly excellent features I've had the pleasure of seeing this year.

Don Fahan Akhtar's *Don*, one of the more high profile remakes to come out of Bollywood in 2006, is the kind of film that, by rights, I should have hated. A big, slick, and noisy action caper centred on the titular Don (Shah Rukh Khan), a Malaysian crime lord on the lam from the law, it's basically an action movie for adolescent boys obsessed with pyrotechnics, hot cars, and beautiful bimbos. And yet, it effortlessly claims top spot on my list, and is also possibly the best film I've seen in the theatre in years. A three hour masala movie that manages to include everything from explosions and car chases, to intimate family drama, to gorgeously choreographed full-out musical production numbers, to blatant product placements, *Don* seemingly effortlessly maintains the frenetic pace the action-thriller genre demands. Hollywood could learn a great deal from Akhtar and Khan, one of the few leading men truly deserving of the "superstar" soubriquet.

Krrish Rakesh Roshan is famous in India for perhaps three things. Firstly, for his tendency to cast his son, the hunky Hrithrik Roshan, now a highly bankable star both at home and abroad, in whatever new project he decides to undertake. Secondly, for a notorious run-in with his chief financial backers, the Indian mafia. And thirdly, for his smash hit production *Koi Mil Gaya*—"I've Found Someone" (2004), India's first big-budget science-fiction movie, a highly original rip-off of *E.T.* with sequences filmed in and around Calgary and Banff. If Krrish, the sequel to KMG (as it is now affectionately known), seems a lot like *Superman*, it's because it is, except with better song and dance numbers. Hrithrik plays the charmingly klutzy, slightly thick "rural Desi superboy" who must save the world from Naserudin Shah's epically evil supervillain, a mad scientist with a God-complex.

Omkara Alongside popcorn pleasers like Don and Krrish, Bollywood also managed to produce a clutch of "prestige" pictures this year, the best of which was, to my mind at least, the beautifully realized *Omkara*, a free, musical adaptation of Shakespeare's *Othello*. The brooding Ajay Devgan is perfect for the role of the Moor, an underclass petty criminal tortured as much by his lowly origins as by his uncontrollable jealousy. Kareena Kapoor, the child of a cinematic dynasty now stretching back four generations, gets the chance to prove she can act too.

Little Miss Sunshine An entertainingly goofy end-of-summer kind of movie, *Little Miss Sunshine* is distinguished by excellent performances from the perfect ensemble cast, including Steve Carrell, Toni Collette, and Greg Kinnear. Yet, perhaps the best performance of all comes from Abigail Bresiln, as the unprepossessing youth who has her heart set on competing in a children's beauty pagent. Everyone seems to be having so much fun it's impossible not to enjoy it.

Passio Leading film archivist Paolo Cherchi Usai has produced a meditation on the ephemeral nature of celluloid (or, rather, silver nitrate) which incorporates tantalizingly obscure fragments of largely forgotten silent scientific, ethnographic and one-reel short films set to Arvo Pärt's titular mass. Part fascinating, and even part terrifying, it's like hieroglyphic inscription about where the movies have been, and where they're going at the beginning of the 21st Century. If there were a metaphysical approach to film studies it'd look something like this.

La Tourneuse de pages A nicely twisted little film, Denis Dercourt's debut feature *La Tourneuse de Pages* is like vinage Chabrol: a thinking man's psychological thriller. The fact that one never quite knows whether the mousy ex-piano student (the sublime Déborah François) is out to get the haughty concert artiste who ruined her life years before is an extremely clever touch, making it an extremely disquieting experience.

> **"The only thing more uncomfortable than watching faux-Anti-Semite/misogynist Borat was seeing regular folks agreeing with him"**

Superman Returns I must say that Kevin Spacey's Lex Luthor was something of a disappointment to me. He appears here with what must be one of the lamest evil-mastermind-type plots for world domination in the history of evil-mastermind-type plots for world domination, claiming to possess the secret to, wait for it, regulating real estate prices. Yet, if such a "terrible" scheme seems blandly, inevitably par for the course in the post 9/11 world, Routh's *Superman* is an engaging throwback to a more innocent era, when good guys were wide-eyed innocents crusading for truth, justice, and the "American way." He deserves a better vehicle for his talents, but his debut is pleasant enough.

Deep Water The amazing true story of the participants in the 1969 London Times round-the-world solo yachting race, *Deep Water* chronicles the heartbreaking downfall of Englishman eccentric Donald Crowhurst, the weekend sailor who set out to conquer the competition with superior technology. The film benefits enormously from the judicious use of Crowhurst's own increasingly incoherent super-eight footage and cassette recordings, and is, quite possibly, one of the best films about a grand obsession, in the tradition of *Fitzcarraldo* or *Burden of Dreams*.

The Lives of Others A tightly scripted German drama about a Stasi agent who comes to identify with a dissident author who he has been assigned to watch, *The Lives* of Others was a surprise Golden Globe nominee for Best Foreign Film, yet it eminently deserves to win. On the back of Ulrich Mühe's performance alone it's one of the best films of this, or any other year.

The Queen Helen Mirren's performance in Stephen Frears' *The Queen* will doubtless earn her a clutch of honours come awards season and there is, indeed, something of Good Queen Bess II in her walk and mannerisms. Yet it's Michael Sheen's uncanny turn as Tony Blair (which left me wondering when the British PM had decided to take up acting for real), which deserves some sort of recognition. With its gloopy romanticism, and facile assertion that "gee, it's tough to be queen," this isn't even a very good film, let alone a great one, yet Sheen is entirely mesmerizing despite the limitations of the material.

LA TOURNEUSE DE PAGES
Nicely twisted

The inscrutable character

The Good Shepherd gives nothing away

THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Directed by Robert De Niro, Starring Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, Michael Gambon, Now playing, ★★½☆☆

IS THE BEST-DOCUMENTED HUNDRED years to date, the 20th would seem to be the century least in need of fake history.

And if your aim is to tell "the untold story of the birth of the CIA," why make up your main character when potential protagonists are thick on the ground?

Nevertheless, to unspool that untold story, *The Good Shepherd* invents not only details but also focal company man Edward Wilson (Matt Damon). Hilariously, the film's website even invites you to "explore the life" of the fictitious Mr. Wilson (Matt Damon), from his membership in Yale's hyper-exclusive Skull and Bones society and his pre-WWII spying for the FBI, through to his Cold War counterintelligence work and leadership of the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Characters, rather than history, have been Robert De Niro's stock-in-trade, and that may be why he chose, as director and producer of *The Good Shepherd*, to hang the bulk of his film on the exceptionally unexpressive Wilson, with two unfortunate consequences: 1) the audience has to watch Matt Damon holding everything in for over two and a half hours, and 2) the genesis of the CIA—no one has yet told that story as you may have heard—has to fight for time and attention, making *The Good Shepherd* a curiously ahistorical and apolitical biography of one of the most important political operations in history.

Turning, then, to Wilson.

High on the list of Things We Assume About Spies would be: they don't know whom to trust, they neglect their families, and they invariably compromise their principles in pursuit of principle. That's what *The Good Shepherd* thinks too! So... to recap: an "accurate" but not terribly substantial made-up story about a really not terribly interesting to watch character recounting what you've already mostly assumed to be true about spies. Not terribly promising, is it?

Oh, there's the psychological element, which has something to do with something deeply rooted but superficially explored about fathers and sons. In fact, every hypothesis you might construct about the man—is he confused? trapped? a milquetoast Michael Corleone?—seems to be not so much contradicted as confounded. Just as the film skips along the birth of the CIA like a stone on the water, *The Good Shepherd* seems as little disposed to reveal Wilson to us as he is to become vulnerable in front of his colleagues.

For what it's worth, Damon does what he's called upon to do... one of those submersions in character that would make Dustin Hoffman proud.

Less successful is Angelina Jolie as Wilson's wife, who is invited (one assumes) to trot out both of her things—overheated seductress and overwrought handwringer—fusing them into a character that makes no sense. Within minutes of meeting Edward, the daughter of exceptional privilege confidently and aggressively pounces on him as if she might at any moment draw some of his blood to wear around her neck only to grow red-eyed and fragile after years of waiting for him to drag his return ass back to the family [illegible].

> "... the daughter of exceptional privilege confidently and aggressively pounces on him as if she might at any moment draw some of his blood to wear around her neck"

Maybe she's a meta-[illegible] movie that achieves neither of its goals.

KEVIN WILSON

DRAMATIC IRONY
These women have no idea what thy're about to do to their careers

You shouldn't have

Hollywood dumps sack of coal on you

BLACK CHRISTMAS
Directed by Glen Morgan, Starring Michelle Trachtenberg, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Now playing, ★☆☆☆☆

ALTHOUGH JOHN CARPENTER'S *Halloween* is generally regarded as the first modern slasher film, a lesser known Canadian cult-classic, *Black Christmas*, was actually released four years earlier and was the first to establish many of the genre's staple conventions (i.e.: the camera as the killer's POV, or the discovery that the phone calls are actually coming from inside the house, or the psychopathic killer who escapes from the mental hospital and returns home during a famous holiday to go on a murderous rampage). Carpenter's *Halloween* is such a blatant rip off, it's a wonder the producers of *Black Christmas* didn't sue.

Don't get me wrong, I think *Halloween* is one of the greatest horror movies of all time; it features Jamie Lee Curtis's stunning debut, it has a terrific villain in Michael Myers, and John Carpenter's haunting original score (which does sound a little too similar to the theme from *The Exorcist*, but who cares!), let's give credit where credit is due: *Black Christmas* was the first.

Now that we've got that out of the way we can ask the question: if the original *Black Christmas* was so good, why did they go remake the darn film? And the answer to that is, I don't know.

Well, I do know, but do we really want to get into that? Okay. Twist my arm. People are lazy. Hollywood is lazy. Everyone is a lazy and they all want something for nothing. It takes hard work to come up with an original idea and nobody in Hollywood wants to work hard.

It makes their brain hurt. So the easiest thing to do is remake the film in a flashier, sexier, bloodier, and ultimately dumber model, and re-sell it to unsuspecting teens who don't know any better.

We've seen it quite a bit lately with *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *When a Stranger Calls*, or any of the Asian horror remakes. Coming soon Rob Zombie's remake of (gasp) *John Carpenter's Halloween*.

At the same time, who really cares? Why not remake the same movies over and over? If audiences don't demand creativity and innovation for all genres of film-making, and they continue to support mediocrity, what do you expect?

The most creative thing about the remake of *Black Christmas* is the marketing. Releasing the film on Christmas Day certainly enraged a lot of Christians. I wonder if it would have made them even angrier if they had called the film *Black Happy Holidays* or spelled the title *Black X-Mas*?

NATHAN CUCKOW

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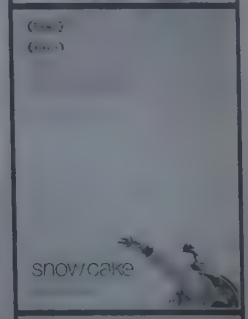

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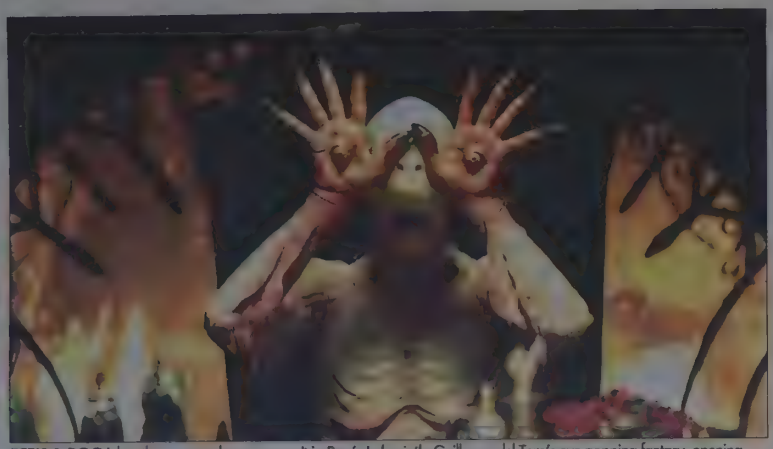


PEEK A BOO It has the eyes, and you can see it in *Pan's Labyrinth*, Guillermo del Toro's eye-popping fantasy, opening soon. We hear it's rather good.

Blood Diamond Fisherman Solomon Vandy (Djimon Hounsou) is pressed into service picking diamonds out of a muddy river where he's mistaken for a rebel fighter and arrested, but not before hiding a sizable diamond. Former Rhodesian mercenary Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio) smuggles diamonds from Sierra Leone and neighbouring Liberia to a diamond cartel in London. Solomon's diamond is his ticket out of Africa. The usual plot inconveniences are taped together in the usual careless way, but the film's primary failing is that it keeps the action "over there." If director Edward Zwick really wanted to rub people's faces in it, he would have shown where the diamonds actually go—say to the fingers of women in white dresses in cities like Edmonton. ★★★☆☆ (KW)

Borat: Cultural Learning of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazahks Sascha Baron Cohen's peculiar genius: going out into the world posing as gormless characters, brushing up against the powerful and the ordinary and using his cheerful ignorance to expose the latent bigotry, hypocrisy, and idiocy of total strangers. Cohen is a walking special effect, so completely ensconced in mock-cluelessness that no amount of hostility will discourage him from perpetrating ever-greater abominations of etiquette, cultural sensitivity, and decency. Just when you think that he can't milk any more novelty out of his racist, sexist, homophobic, crude and patently dumb alter-ego, Cohen ups the ante, compounding outrage with outrage until there's a solid chance you might wet yourself. Far and away the funniest movie of the year. ★★★★☆ (SL)

Casino Royale *Casino Royale* follows James (Daniel Craig) to several exotic locations as he tracks down the main villain of the film, a banker to international terrorists, Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen). Director Martin Campbell has delivered a fantastic action film that relies more on suspense and intrigue than the over-the-top gadgetry of past Bond films. Casino Royale reinvents Bond. He's a lean, mean, cold-hearted, womanizing, professional killing machine. Here we are presented with a real, complex, and brooding man, who doesn't always win. This is a Bond that is rough around the edges and he's all the better for it. ★★★★★ (NC)

Charlotte's Web In spite of its A-list cast, this adaptation of the beloved spider-saves-pig story ultimately fails. The heart of the book is there, and there doesn't appear to be any attempt to soft-pedal its lefty values. But maybe *Charlotte's Web* was never meant to be a film in the first place. We lose the pacing of a chapter-a-night bedtime reading of the novel: two hours from birth to death, even for a spider's lifetime, seems rushed. Wilbur's voice remains that of a 10 year old, although its embrace of mortality is one of the book's strong points. ★★★☆☆ (MS)

Deck the Halls Matthew Broderick, a stick-in-the-mud optometrist, likes to plan his Christmas, and his family has to get dragged into the dreary minutia of it all. New neighbor Danny DeVito wants his Christmas decorations so spectacular that his house can be seen from outer space. What follows is a back-and-forth testing of wills, escalating revenge, and general nastiness. The premise could only work if it truly went over the top—into cartoon-ish Road Runner and Coyote territory, as suggested by one sequence. Unfortunately, the film is too lackadaisical to go for that kind of frenetic energy—ultimately it veers off into the conventional and ho-hum. ★★☆☆☆ (TM)

Déjà Vu *Deja Vu* starts with a terrorist bombing of a New Orleans passenger ferry that kills hundreds of people. ATF agent Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) investigates and uncovers the body of beautiful Claire (Paula Patton), who was actually murdered earlier that day by the terrorist (Jim Caviezel). Carlin then learns of a special high-tech surveillance device that allows you to re-watch the past unfold and, just possibly, travel back in time. But, director Tony Scott has managed to make a slow paced, watered down version of every other movie he's ever made. The only bright spot is Jim Caviezel, who manages to take the stock Unabomber terrorist and create a genuinely menacing character. ★★☆☆☆ (NC)

The Departed Matt Damon is a cop working for Martin Sheen and Alec Baldwin. Leonardo DiCaprio reports to Irish mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson), whose thoughts are scarcely troubled by human feeling. Unfortunately, this Martin Scorcese remake of a Hong Kong action classic gives the actors little to play with. So even though Damon is really working for Nicholson and DiCaprio is really a mole for the cops, and even though Nicholson gives a great performance, this trip to the outskirts of the darkside doesn't impress. ★★★☆☆ (MH)

Dreamgirls When the lights go down, the R & B busts out and gives you a charge, but then *Dreamgirls* sags under a load of questionable taste and sap, trying to tell a story bigger than its makers can squish compellingly into two hours. Jamie Foxx plays Berry Gordy Lite in this hollow retelling of the Motown story, musically narrated by same-sounding melodies delivered without restraint but likewise without feeling. ★★☆☆☆ (KW)

The Fountain In Darren Aronofsky's *The Fountain*, Hugh Jackman stars with Rachel Weisz in parallel stories spanning three centuries. Though not emotionally charged and metaphysically compelling, that's not to say it doesn't look astonishing. For a movie spanning three disparate epochs, it has remarkable visual coherency. The players, too, are remarkable. However, it focuses so claustrophobically on the principle pair that it leaves the reality they live in only lightly shaded in. A little humour wouldn't have hurt either. In the end, The Fountain becomes so fixated on its grand themes that it fails to convince on a human scale. ★★★☆☆ (SL)

The Holiday The day before Christmas holidays, Iris' (Kate Winslet) on-off lover announces his engagement. In LA, Amanda (Cameron Diaz) has discovered that her live-in boyfriend has been unfaithful and pitches him out the door. Both are looking for an escape, and find the answer in the form of a house exchange. Then it's time to pair our miserable singles up: for Amanda, it's Graham (Jude Law), Iris' brother. Then Miles (Jack Black), and Iris are forced together. But everyone "falling in love" in this movie is rebounding, and we know it. The Holiday is a wishful- thinking story filled with contrived romance that seems like more trouble than it's worth. ★★★☆☆ (MS)

The Nativity Story *The Nativity Story* has set biblical cinema on its ear. Jesus' mother (Keisha Castle-Hughes) must deal with a Nazareth populace skeptical about divine conception when a woman's supposed to wait a year even after marriage or face stoning, the angel Gabriel and prophecy notwithstanding. But she's got the support of cousin Elizabeth (Shohreh Aghdashloo), future mother of John the Baptist. And new husband Joseph (Oscar Isaac) is a tower of quiet strength as he and Mary make the hundred-mile trek to Bethlehem. With the family audience in mind, the reverent Nativity is refreshingly free of guilt-driven Gibsonian violence. Only the portrayal of the wise men as comic relief jars. ★★★★☆ (MH)

The Queen This is undeniably a classic two-hander about the Elizabethan monarch and her advisor, yet there's something not quite on about the idea of a film on the present monarch. In the 21st Century we ought to have got over our strange fascination with hereditary power and privilege. Frears' film seems altogether too soft and reverential, though it masquerades as a pithy critique of all things royal. This is a film that, for all its scenes of Elizabeth doing "normal" things like drinking tea, answering telephones, weeping, and swearing has no interest in determining whether the members of the monarchy are really "just like us." ★★★☆☆ (CN)

Rocky Balboa Thirty years on, Sylvester Stallone finds his signature pugilist mourning the death of his wife, recounting his glory years, and challenged by the current champ. Surprisingly, the formulaic, predictable, sometimes plodding plot, and there's much satisfaction watching the aged underdog get back into shape. Stallone delivers a surprisingly moving and heartfelt performance. As writer and director, Stallone manages to orchestrate the ultimate comeback, not only for his beloved creation, but for his ailing career. He's made a film that brings Rocky's journey full circle, making this last visit a worthwhile one. ★★★☆☆ (NC)

Saw III Most of the criticisms one could level at a movie like Saw III—the convoluted, laughably implausible plot, the shitty acting, etc—are simply moot. This film exists for one reason only: to inspire revulsion, and on that account it excels remarkably. Like the other Saw films, the premise finds unwitting victims strapped into lavishly designed and fetishized torture devices from which the only means of escape posit grisly Catch 22s. And that's about it. All action outside of the gore in Saw III is merely cursory. You want human degradation and suffering? You got it. It's hard to recall a film in recent memory, if ever, that equals the abundance of agony on display here. So, if that sounds like a good time you have it—this film has it all. ★☆☆☆☆ (ZV)

Snow Cake A film about surviving grief and loss that just happens to feature a character with autism and that deftly balances its heart wrenching premise with humour. A reserved Brit (Alan Rickman) arrives in northern Ontario with heavy baggage and runs into strangely obsessive Linda (Sigourney Weaver) and freewheeling Maggie (Carrie-Anne Moss). Avoiding the tendency of many made-in-Canada features to haul uplift out of dire or dramatic emotional situations but coming off false and oversweetened, Snow Cake enjoyably an intimate, compelling immediacy bolstered by fine performances. ★★★★☆ (SL)

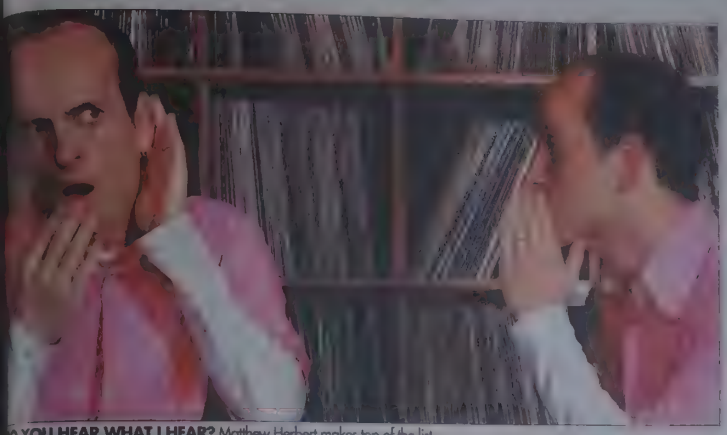
Stranger Than Fiction Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) wakes up to find that his every move and gesture is being narrated, only to discover that he's actually a character in a book and the voice is that of writer Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson). It sounds like a great idea, but somehow it goes off the rails, possibly because it's really just Charlie Kaufman by numbers. Everyone is too retrained (including Ferrell!), making the scenes ponderous and slow—bad news for a film that, at its core, is still a comedy. Nothing seems to ever gel, and every moment where you find yourself caught up in the story is undercut by something that knocks you out of it—forced "poignancy," unnecessarily elaborate and clunky shots and sets, artificial whimsy. ★★☆☆☆ (TM)

Tenacious D: The Pick of Destiny Jack Black and Kyle Gass play two bumbling never-has-been musicians on a quest to become the world's greatest band. Perusing photos of legends such as AC/DC's Angus Young, they notice that all their heroes shared a common denominator—each was photographed using the same mysterious guitar pick—the titular "Pick of Destiny." Despite turns by Ben Stiller, Tim Robbins, and Nirvana/Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl (as Satan—the pick is a piece of one of his teeth) and the undynamic duo themselves, the film is a flat unfunny drag that assumes that the audience will find this pair endearing. ★★☆☆☆ (ZV)

Unaccompanied Minors The blizzard of the century hits leaving a group of kids snowed in at the Chicago airport on Christmas Eve. Rather than spend the evening trapped in the large concrete cell, they form an alliance and successfully escape. Unfortunately for them, the cranky airport Manager Oliver Porter (Lewis Black) has been snowed in as well and makes sure they have the worst Christmas ever. Director Paul Feig manages to capture charismatic performances from the young actors, but fails to utilize the veteran comedic talents of Lewis Black or Rob Cordry. Unaccompanied Minors will likely entertain kids between the ages of 7 and 13, but will ultimately bore anyone else to death. ★☆☆☆☆ (NC)

Volver As fires burn throughout Spain, a woman (Lola Dueñas) becomes convinced that her mother has risen from the grave. But her mother has some pretty heavy guilt for the pain she was involved in, hidden from the family for several decades. Her sister (Penelope Cruz) finds herself repeating the cycle of violence and repression, with a slight variation. The film is filled with the kind of impossibly rich, feminine performances that Almodóvar alone seems capable of extracting from actresses. It's also characterised by a combination of visual lushness (and vivid use of colour). A typically accomplished and sophisticated Almodóvar picture, and probably one of his best. ★★★★☆ (JW)

Reviewers: Dave Alexander, Nathan Cuckow, James Elford, Fish Griwkowksy, Matthew Halliday, Mike Hebert, Scott Lingley, Lech Lindes, Roberta McDonald, Tom Murray, Celia Nicholls, Kevin Wilson



O YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? Matthew Herbert makes top of the list

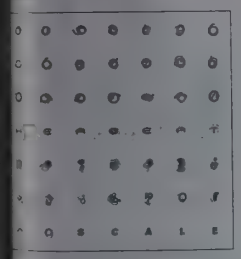
The year in review

Best and worst of 2006 all over the map

E BEST? THE WORST? NO REAL greement anywhere—and that obably means 2006 was full of ists and turns. So without further lo, here's *SEE*'s musical review for e past year...

ANÇOIS MARCHAND'S 2006 EVIEW

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
erbert – *Scale*



masterpiece of tremendous proortion. Matthew Herbert sheds first ime and re-invents electro-soul ompletely. Unequaled.

CONCERTS OF THE YEAR
ogol Bordello – Sidetrack Café
he dirtiest, noisiest, craziest dance arty of the year! Bass drum crowdurfing! Table-to-table hopping! The Sidetrack turned upside down! ureal.
unk Mountaintops – Sidetrack Café
tephen McBean and Co. wove a iggy haze that still haunts the place.
inal Fantasy – Powerplant
en Pallett plays one of the most armingly stark solo sets to have er graced the 'Plant, a few days ore winning the inaugural Polaris usic Prize. Loopy!

SINGLE OF THE YEAR
harls Barkley – "Crazy"
was all over the airwaves in a matr of seconds—from campus radio easy-rock stations. Unavoidable d catchy as all hell.

LIVE ALBUM OF THE YEAR
The Sadies – *In Concert, Vol.1*
Even if you're not a big fan of the Sadies in recorded form, this live album captures why they keep a rabid fan base. With special guest appearances galore!

COMPILATION OF THE YEAR
V/A– *Jamaica to Toronto: Soul Funk & Reggae 1967 - 1974*
The best groove in a single package

LOCALS OF THE YEAR
Our Mercury – *From Below*
The true spirit of punk, infused with soul, reggae, and a poignant, com bative idealism.
AA Sound System – *Laissez-Faire*
Yet another reason why AA is a national treasure. Magical

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
Kristin Cheung – Promoter, Vanity
For making all-ages gigs exciting once again. A big kudos!

EP OF THE YEAR
The Black Keys - *Chulahoma*
Akron's lo-fi blues duo revisits Junior Kimbrough without missing a step. Put it on repeat!

WORST SHOW OF THE YEAR
Detroit Cobras – New City
Unexplainably awful. Two nights of pissy bullshit that never should've been.

MOST DISAPPOINTING RECORD
DJ Shadow – *The Outsider*
What the fuck happened to DJ Shadow? One minute he's shaping turntablism, the next he's taking a huge dump all over it.

ARTWORK OF THE YEAR
Chad VanGaalen - *Skelliconnection*
VanGaalen's work is unique. Simply "YouTube" his videos to understand why.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS
The Flaming Lips – *At War With the Mystics*
Justin Timberlake – *Futuresex/Lovesounds*
Andre Ethier – *Secondathallam*
Asobi Seksu – *Citrus*
M. Ward – *Post-War*
Mogwai – *Mr. Beast*
Silversun Pickups – *Carnavas*
Spank Rock – *Yoyoyo*
Yo La Tengo – *I Am Not Afraid Of You and I Will Beat Your Ass*
The Roots – *Game Theory*

ROLLIE PEMBERTON'S TOP 10 RECORDS OF 2006 (AND THE DEFINITIVE LINE FOR EACH!)
1. Destroyer - *Rubies*
"No, I can't complain on the eastside midwives/ Lives go down the drain/ All cause our babies are dying!"
2. Joanna Newsom - *Ys*
"Stay with me for a while, that's an awfully real gun."
3. The Streets - *The Hardest Way To Make An Easy Living*
"DID YOU KNOW CIGARETTE LIGHTERS WERE INVENTED BEFORE MATCHES?!?!?!"
4. J. Dilla - *Donuts*
"You better stop, and think about what you're doin'. You better stop [pause] and think about what you're doin'."
5. Justin Timberlake - *Futuresex/Lovesounds*
"Now I know you got a buzz off that alcohol/I got a house that can entertain all of y'all!"
6. The Roots - *Game Theory*
"It's the last of the red hot hip-hop emcees, that came up on grits and government cheese."
7. The Hold Steady - *Boys And Girls In America*
"He was drunk and exhausted but he was critically acclaimed and respected."
8. Lo-Fi-FNK - *Boylife*
"Shut your mouth, don't wanna hear about your trip down south/Neither that novel you've been dreamin' 'bout/Something about you just makes me doubt."
9. Clipse - *Hell Hath No Fury*
"The news called it crack, I called it Diet Coke!"
10. Bob Dylan - *Modern Times*
"If I catch my opponents ever sleeping/I'll just slaughter 'em where they lie."

LAMON MCGRATH'S TOP TEN MUSICAL BITS OF 2006
1. Eric Bachmann – *To the Races*
Best bit: "Carrboro Woman," 2:53
When Bachmann's harmonica rhythmically channels Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, and every lonely traveler, on every train, on every track, everywhere

2. Tom Waits – *Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers & Bastards*
Best bit: "Lord I've Been Changed," 0:05 When Tom's smoky voice rises above the handclaps and vibrating guitar, to frighten, astound, and redefine gospel at the exact same time. All in a day at the office for this guy
3. Califone – *Roots & Crowns*
Best bit: "The Orchids," 0:27 When the chorus finally hits and you realize you're listening to a Psychic TV song; along with realizing that Tim Rutili just kicked Genesis P-Orridge's scrawny gothic ass. Repeatedly
4. Baby Dayliner – *Critics Pass Away*
Best bit: "Silent Places," 0:42 When Ethan Marunas' soaring voice rolls Morrissey, Frank Sinatra, the Staple Singers, and the Wu-Tang Clan up in the biggest Benson & Hedges you've ever seen and takes a giant drag. Maybe pop music isn't so bad after all.
5. Wolf Eyes – *Human Animal*
Best bit: "The Driller," 1:35 When the slowly building dirge explodes in a mess of beats, screams, fear, terror, darkness, bass and sludge. Not for the faint of heart, but the world doesn't have to be pretty, and we love Wolf Eyes for showing us the light... nay, dark?
6. Band of Horses – *Everything All the Time*
Best bit: "The Great Salt Lake," 0:17 When Ben Bridwell's voice lets you know you're in for the saddest four minutes and 45 seconds of music you'll hear this year. What's this album not about? Pain? Heartache? Desperation? Mormons? This record's got it all.
7. TV on the Radio – *Return to Cookie Mountain*
Best bit: "Tonight," 0:29 When the chime of orchestra bells simultaneously stops your heart, takes your breath, breaks your bones, and makes it acceptable to like Depeche Mode once and for all.
8. Devastations – *Coal*
Best bit: "Coal," 2:10 When you realize that someday, Nick Cave is going to die—believe it or not—but we can sleep easy knowing that he's got a good enough successor.
9. Young Widows – *Settle Down City*
Best bit: "Small Talk," 0:21 When the drums kick in, you have a brief soul-searching moment, reflect on the meaninglessness of your existence,

See Year, page 20

HOT TICKETS
MUSIC & SHOWS

ARMIN VAN BUUREN
■ *Thu, Dec 28, Edmonton Events Centre (WEM), 8:30 pm*
A legendary DJ! for a legendary set! Dance dance, dance

FRACTAL PATTERN, CITY STREETS, DEBOLTATA
■ *Sat, Dec 30, kHz (10249 97 St.), 7 pm*
Are you kidding us? This will be one for the books! Edmonton indie rock at its finest with proceeds going to the Northern Alberta Society of Animal Protection!

THE SUPERBAND
■ *Sun, Dec 31, Sidetrack Café (10238 104 St.), 9 pm*
A New Year's Eve tradition! Get your funk and drink on with the Superband and dance your New Year's Eve away!

BEBOP CORTEZ, FROSTED TIPZ, MARK BIRTLES BAND
■ *Sun, Dec 31, Powerplant (U of A), 8 pm*
New Year's Eve spelled C-R-A-Z-Y! Mayhem ensues

RAULT BROTHERS BAND
■ *Sun, Dec 31, Blue Chair Café (9624-76 Ave.), 7 pm*
The definitive Edmonton roots and roll band wraps up 2006 with class!

SEE it Live!

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DOUBLE CD RELEASE
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DECEMBER 31
NEW YEARS EVE W/
MURDER CITY SPARROWS
MAD BOMBERS SOCIETY
THE IGNITERS
ROWDEYMEN
ON THE BRINK

POWERPLANT
restaurant & bar
•DECEMBER 31•
MASQUERADE GALA
THE FROSTED TIPZ
BEBOP CORTEZ
THE MARK BIRTLES PROJECT

THE URBAN LOUNGE
8111-105 St. 439-5388
DECEMBER 28
WHITEWALL
W/ TYPHOID MARY
DECEMBER 29-30
17 SPEEDHEAD
DECEMBER 31
NEW YEARS EVE
W/ MUSTARD SMILE

77 Ave Calgary Trail - 780-432-461
THE ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL
DECEMBER 28-30
CHUCK ROSE
DECEMBER 31
NEW YEARS EVE
W/ DUFF ROBINSON

THE CLUB
DECEMBER 31
NEW YEARS EVE
BASH!
DJ BLUE JAY
& DJ NIK ROMANTIK
IN THE
LIKWID LOUNGE
DILDOZER
& NAZZ NOMAD

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND
780-428-1099
DEC 29
THE BLAZING VIOLETS
PIND
DEC 30
ROLODEX
IN LOVE WITH THE STRUGGLE
DEC 31
NYE DOUBLE PARTY
W/ THE STARLITE ROOM
JAN 2
THE BRITISH INVASION
JAN 3
LUSHIOUS WEDNESDAY

Blue Chair Café
NYE PARTY
THE RAULT BROTHERS BAND

12464-153 STREET (780) 424-9467
CASINO YELLOWHEAD
DEC 29 30 CATALYST
DEC 31 ALMOST ABBA
7055 ANTHL ROAD NW (780) 465-5377
CASINO EDMONTON
DEC 29 CARSON COUNTY
DEC 30 GREEN RAE & CORNERSTONE

THE BLACK FREEHOUSE
124 AVE. 454-1002
DEC 29
FRACTAL PATTERN

Year

Continued from page 19

and try to imagine where good punk rock would be without Shellac. This is nihilistic, anthemic, and heavy. Very heavy

10. French Kicks – *Two Thousand*
Best bit: "So Far We Are," 0:08 When Nick Stumpf's snare drum lets you in on a little secret: you're listening to the most under-appreciated record of the year, put out by a band so used to doing great things that nobody notices anymore.

ADAM GAUMONT'S TOP 10 CDS OF 2006

1. Ben Harper - *Both Sides of the Gun*
A towering conceptual work from a talented artist at the peak of his abilities. Harper shows excellent range on this two-disc set, from sensitive acoustic ballads to Stones-influenced blues-rock jams, all carrying the weight of sophisticated social commentary.

2. Ray Lamontagne - *Till the Sun Turns Black*
Not as immediately accessible as his debut *Trouble*, *Till the Sun Turns Black* is a subtler, more intricate and complex work, though ultimately just as moving. Listen to this one with your headphones on, in the dark, all by yourself. Repeat as necessary.

3. James Hunter - *People Gonna Talk*
The funnest, liveliest, most energetic album of the year in my mind. Hunter is an unabashed pastiche artist, but that's OK, because he does it brilliantly, diving headlong into '60s-era rock, swing, and R&B (in the original sense of the word)—and he's a Brit! You simply will not be able to sit still during this one.

4. Bruce Springsteen - *We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions (American Land Edition)*
Springsteen takes Pete Seeger's classic yet bare-bones recordings to previously unimagined heights here, making each song his own while preserving their folkie, grassroots essences. He and his oversized band recorded everything live off the floor, tearing into each track with a zeal that makes the first 30 years of The Boss's career look like a waste of time.

5. Jeff Healey's Jazz Wizards - *It's Tight Like That*
Rounding out the revivalist trio is Canada's own Jeff Healey, who has apparently seen the error of his '80s blues-pop ways and has opted to go for the old-timey jazz gig full-time. K-Rock can keep "Can You See the Light." Those who are "in the know" know that Healey's lively ragtime playing is where it's at.

6. Derek Trucks Band - *Songlines*
With this thoroughly soulful album, I think the torch of Southern slide-guitar has officially been passed to Derek Trucks. His lineage can be traced back to the Allman Brothers Band, and given his marriage to Susan Tedeschi, one can't help but relish the thought of what's still to come from this particular strand of DNA.

7. Los Lobos - *The Town and The City*
Yet another solid release from the kings of tex-mex and blues-rock. Like a fine wine, Los Lobos's music only seems to gain richness and complexity with age, and *The Town and The City*, which features an impressive range of styles, makes 2006 a vintage year for the L.A.-based quintet.

8. Magnolia Electric Co. - *Fading Trails*
Though it's not their best work to date, and at under 50 minutes it's criminally short, *Fading Trails* still shows why Jason Molina's Magnolia Electric Co. are one of the most criminally overlooked groups out there as well. On the bright side, it looks like the group has finally settled on a name.

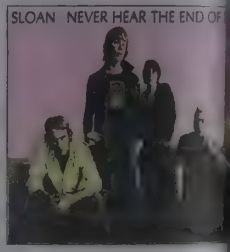
9. John Mayer - *Continuum*
While many music critics consider John Mayer to be overrated, I maintain that he is in fact underrated, with *Continuum* serving as the latest proof. After reinventing himself somewhat in 2005 as a more blues-influenced musician, the 29-year-old has returned with a mature and well-written album that puts the lesser teeny-bopper songs that have marred his reputation behind him.

10. Gnarls Barkley - *St. Elsewhere*
I've put this album on my list for the other reason than to express my solidarity with the digital music movement, as its first single, "Crazy" became the first song to reach the top of the British charts on the strength of digital sales alone. Oh, that and it's another wickedly original mix of hip-hop and soul from Danger Mouse (and featuring the vocal talents of Cee-Lo Green) that once again single-handedly blazes new musical trails and leaves most other MCs just scratching their heads.

AMANDA ASH'S TOP FIVE SHOWS THAT MADE YOU SWEATY...

1. The Hidden Cameras - Powerplant
Who's surprised that The Hidden Cameras would come to town and get everyone screaming to *Awesome*? wasn't. But who woulda thunk they would be belly dancers on stage? Certainly not me.

2. The Dudes - Sidetrack Café
Even though the crowd stuck to head nodding and lip synching, the sweat dripping off of vocalist and tarist Dan Vacon was enough to make you feel as though another deodorant application was necessary.



3. Red Shag Carpet - Powerplant
Middle-aged women were dancing with 20-something-year-olds. Un-

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Sundays
4:30pm - 9:30pm
Mondays closed
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www.padthai-restaurant.com

versity students were doing back-flips. Ukrainian dancing broke out on the floor. 'Nuf said.

4. **She Wants Revenge - Starlite Room**
Weirdest experience ever. She Wants Revenge's dark lyrics and moody beats don't sound like the type of thing you'd want to groove to, but when listening to them live, you just can't stop yourself.

5. **Franz Ferdinand - Shaw Conference Centre**
I'm sure Franz Ferdinand was a dance party extravaganza, but for those who managed to wedge themselves to the front of the crowd (ahem), the sweat dripping from your shirt wasn't self-generated.

...AND TOP FIVE ANTICIPATED RELEASES OF 2006 THAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENTS

1. **Sloan - *Never Hear The End Of It***
Everyone said, "Oh, wow. The new Sloan album is great, even though it has, like, 30 songs on it!" Of course, I believed them and expected great things when the album was really no better than bland, overcooked mashed potatoes.

2. **The Flaming Lips – *At War With the Mystics***
All of the insanely creative contrasting between chaos and fine-tuning just couldn't make "The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song" and "Free Radicals" better than *Pink Robots*.

3. **Emily Haines and the Soft Skeleton – *Knives Don't Have Your Back***
Told my friends that if I weren't straight, Emily Haines would be the first one I'd try to pick up. But after listening to how boring *Knives* was, sticking to men would be more exciting.

4. **Beck - *The Information***
Sure, it came with fancy stickers. Sure, you could use those stickers to design your own album cover. But we all know gimmicks like that function to cover up (no pun intended) a serious lack of originality.

5. **Yeah Yeah Yeahs - *Show Your Bones***
After falling in love with *Fever To Tell* and listening to "Maps" at least 10 times a day, I was convinced that *Show Your Bones* was bound to be the epitome of Karen O's throaty innocence. Instead, it sucked. Hard.

LECH LINKIEL'S TEN CRUCIAL MP3S OF 2006

Barry Adamson - "Dissemble"
Lugubrious electro jazz for people who prefer the back alleys, where light turns into shade, over the wide open boulevards, where everything's the same.

Goldfrapp - "Boys Will Be Boys"
Having given Marilyn Manson's new shit the proper Weimar-treatment, the dynamic duo explore the full cabaret potential of this Ordinary Boys original.

Imogen Heap - "Glittering Clouds (The Plague of Locusts)"
Heap's contribution to a thematic compilation about the ten Plagues of Egypt, makes clever use of sampled locusts and possesses plenty of drive despite almost inaudible bass.

John Foxx & Louis Gordon - "Freeze Frame" (Extended)
Yeah, extended. Not remixed, rehashed or mashed up by some generic turntablist twit. Just extended, plain and simple. Cut and paste easily extends it further.

Junior Boys - "Max"
The Juniors once again indulge their love of dated drum samples and contribute this sweet lullaby to a compilation of modern children's songs.

Massive Attack - "Live With Me"
The Bristol trip hoppers doing what they do best, here with Curtis Mayfield's childhood pal Terry Callier, a man possessed by a voice the kind of which they just don't make no more.

Nine Horses - "When Monday Comes Around"
Dave Sylvian got a band together with brother Steve Jansen and DJ Bernd "Burnt" Friedman and came up with an album that'd put hardcore insomniacs in a coma. Seems outtakes, like this one, are where all that talent went.

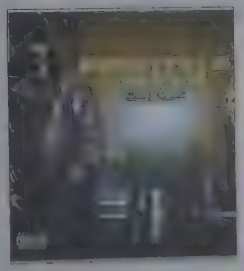
Pet Shop Boys & Richard X - "Fugitive"
In the habit of hiding some of their best on singles and bonus discs, the Boys tucked away this gem among the droll remixes that accompanied their latest album.

Rammstein - "Mann gegen Mann" (Popular music mix)
Schwerin's finest consolidate their position as the gayest rock band since Frankie Goes To Hollywood left the building with a treatment from Erasure's Vince Clarl.

The Strike Boys & Chris Corner - "Chemical Princess"
With a stunning sophomore album under his IAMX moniker, former Sneaker Pimp Chris Corner still found time to collaborate: last year with Hamburg's Moonbeam, this year with Nürnberg's Strike Boys.

JAMES STEWART'S FAVOURITES OF 2006 (IN NO REAL ORDER)

Ghostface Killah – *Fishscale*
Massive hooks and airtight flow combine with vivid and visual storytelling to make for one of the best hip-hop records I've heard in the last few years.



J. Dilla – *Donuts*
In J. Dilla's world, absolutely everything can be tweaked, detuned, cut and pasted, and his passion for the craft (reportedly working in the hospital up until his passing) shines though. RIP.

Mogwai – *Mr. Beast*
The metallic sheen of Mr. Beast may have been a bit much for some, but the band has always used monstrous riffs and white noise to get their point across. Brilliant production, haunting melody, classic Mogwai.

Isis – *In the Absence of Truth*
This one is still growing on me, and truthfully it does seem to be taking a little bit longer than I expected. But I have faith.

Nina Nastasia – *On Leaving*
I reviewed this a couple weeks ago. I more or less gushed like a schoolgirl.

Magnolia Electric Co. – *Fading Trails*
Of all the records released this year, this one probably got the most actual play. Comprised of selections from four unreleased albums, *Fading Trails* may be flawed, but it's these flaws that end up giving the album its character.

Our Mercury – *From Below*
Not just the best local release of the year, one of my favourites period—and easily one of the best albums to ever come out of Edmonton. Also played the best show I saw this year (in town), debuting their new bass player at the Black Dog and delivering a blistering set informed by reggae and soul.

Hot Snakes – *Thunder Down Under*
Recorded live at an Australian radio station, Thunder is a perfect companion to their Peel Sessions of last year. Though it may seem redundant (most of the band's repertoire was recorded in a similar fashion), the songs sound vital and exciting as good a note to go out on as any.

Jesu – *Silver*
A more finely honed pop sensibility informs the down-tuned and downtrodden Jesu. Can't wait for the upcoming full-length and subsequent North American tour.

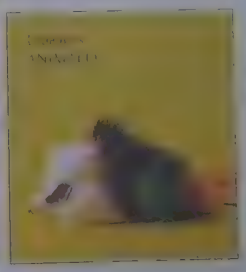
V/A – *Jamaica to Toronto: Soul Funk & Reggae 1967 - 1974*
Compilations like this almost always offer more style than substance, so *Jamaica to Toronto* is to be appreciated even more so—well researched, well compiled. Essential listening.

And you know what album disappointed me? **Mastodon's *Blood Mountain***. Sure, there are sections of songs throughout that are amazing, but overall, the album suffers from a bunch of bad choices and a lot of lousy singing.

PROSPER PRODANIUK: "IN 2006, MUSIC WAS STILL THE GREATEST POWER IN THE UNIVERSE BECAUSE OF..."

Lotterboys – *Animalia*
Old time rock 'n' roll got funked by two unassuming German dudes. Paris The Black Fu (of Detroit Grand Pubahs) steals the show as he channels the power of P-Funk to assume George's throne, hair, and sequined robes. Parents should be afraid of rock 'n' roll again.

Being able to see a live performance of Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas*

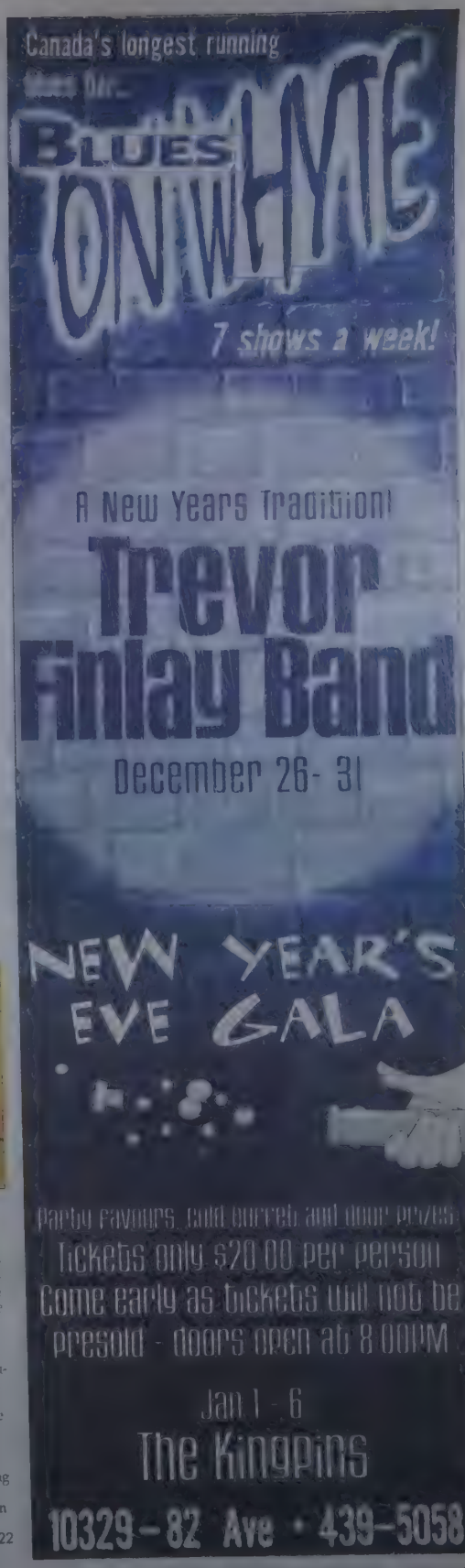


Brasileras No.5 is a rare experience. Being able to experience **Janet Smith**'s astounding performance of it will be unforgettable. **Denzal Sinclaire** glorifying Gershwin and having an absolute master of a craft like percussionist **Evelyn Glennie** made the Winspear Centre a wonderful place to be this year.

My Robot Friend - *Dial 0*
Constantly on repeat, this is an original and wonderful pop album with everything from booty bass songs that out-gangsta Snoop to evocative goth symphonies.

Dietzche V. and the Abominable Snowman played above a scooter shop with members of SO4 spinning songs that were fun to dance to. Many drinks with C2H6O were con

See Year, page 22



Year

Continued from page 21

sumed by those that found it A-OK.
Various Artists - *Total 7*
In seven years, Michael Mayer and friends have taken their cottage clique to worldwide chic. A massive success that has set trends for dance music without compromising new sounds along with an enormously successful distribution site and setup that has taken dozens of smaller labels under their wing to nurture them—not kill them. Their 7th retrospective is the best one yet.
I will always love the black crack—vinyl—but it is nice to buy a certain mix online without spending 30 dollars on a double pack. Thousands more DJs were sucked into the **digital revolution** this year.
Agoria - *The Green Armchair*
Everyone talks about Daft Punk and Laurent Garnier but Sebsatien Devaud is equally a master of eclectic electronics. On his second full-length, Devaud tries a dozen new combinations for beats and bleeps that somehow work. The violin-drenched deep house on "Les Violons Ivres" is absolutely wonderful.
Discovering **Revisited Records** and their dedication to re-releasing glorious classic Krautrock from **Amon Duul**, **Holger Czukay**, the early (good) **Klaus Schulze** records, and even **Grobschnitt**! Bonus tracks abound on every release.
Pigna People - *Let Em Talk*
Like superheroes from another dimension, three of Italy's hottest techno producers unite to fight mediocrity for a brand-new sound that blends the spaciness of Detroit with the sugar-coated synths of classic Italo-disco. The bonus 20-track mix "Pignamedley" encapsulates their genius perfectly.
Weird Al's "White And Nerdy" video
How could've "Ridin' Dirty" gotten any better?

CAM HAYDEN'S ROOTS AND BLUES HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006
The first **"Winter Blues Festival"** was put on at the **Blues on Whyte** in January and provided local fans an opportunity to chase the winter blahs away with a half dozen of the best bands based in Western Canada.
Tom Russell hit town with his superb, introspective recording *Love and Fear* in tow for a sold out **Full Moon Folk Club** show.
Charlie Musselwhite lit up the **Arden Theatre**, playing music from his new disc *Delta Hardware*.
Edmonton's own **Stony Plain Records celebrated 30 years** of releasing the best in roots and blues music
Toronto-based harmonica ace **David Rotundo** made his first trip to Edmonton for a memorable week at the **Blues on Whyte**.
The **Yardbird Suite Jazz Festival** mustered the troops for a second year, featuring performances by **Mike Stern** and the best in local and regional talent.
The **Edmonton Folk Festival** brought us **David Bromberg**, who romped through a set of acoustic and electric blues, gospel, folk, and pop in one spellbinding hour, plus **The Neville Brothers**, with their incredible main stage show.
The **Blues Festival** introduced audiences to the extraordinary talents of **Diunna Greenleaf and Eden Brent**, plus The Chicago Blues Reunion with Harvey Mandel, Nick Gravenites, Corky Siegel, Tracy Nelson, et al.
The fall concert season featured the incomparable **Bonnie Raitt, plus Cindy Church, Jim Byrnes, Alain Caron, Jerry Jeff Walker, and Janiva Magness**.

Ten discs that came out in 2006 that every blues fan should have:
- **Bob Brozman - *Blues Reflex***
- **Watermelon Slim and The Workers - *Watermelon Slim and The Workers***
- **Jeremy Spencer - *Precious Little***
- **Otis Rush - *Live From San Francisco***
- **Colin James - *Little Big Band 3***
- **John Long - *Lost and Found***
- **Jim Byrnes - *House of Refuge***
- **Charlie Musselwhite - *Delta Hardware***
- **The Twisters - *After The Storm***
- **Fiona Boyes - *Lucky 13***

Finally, raise a glass to those who are no longer with us, including **Clifford Antone**, **Ruth Brown**, **Robert Lockwood Jr.**, **Jay McShann**, **Back Alley John**, and **Jimmy Payne**.

TOM MURRAY'S TOP TEN OF 2006
Say Hi To Your Mom – *Impeccable Taste*
Cute but not too cute new wave pop that comes from the heart as much as the bedroom.
Bunky Green – *Another Place*
A good 30 years after retiring from the road and recording, jazz saxophonist Bunky returns sounding fresh as ever.
The Walkmen – *Pussy Cats*
A cover of a 1974 Harry Nilsson cover album—not just a cool idea, but a really well done cool idea.
The Secretaries at the Rosebowl, Sunday, December 10th
Live show. The rocking-est band currently playing in Edmonton—sort of Heart meets Sabbath, but much cuter.
Van Morrison – *Live at Montreux, '74 and '80* DVD
A rare video glimpse of Van at a personal peak ('80) and on the verge of change ('74.)
Sao Paris – *La*
The best ambient avant-garde electro-samba album from Paris this year.
The Sadies – *In Concert, Vol.1*
Canada's best—in top form and with guests at consecutive shows in Toronto.
Go Betweens – *That Striped Sunlight Sound* CD/DVD
The last hurrah for co leader Grant McLennan—he died barely eight months after this live concert, and just a few before the corresponding album was released.
V/A- *Jamaica to Toronto: Soul Funk & Reggae 1967 – 1974*
Would be essential even if only for Jo Jo & The Fugitives "Chips – Chicken – Banana Split," but even the weakest cut on this compilation rocks.
Josef K – *Entomology*
1980's "Sound of Young Scotland," buffed up and presented for people who think that Franz Ferdinand and Interpol had no precedents.

TRAVIS SARGENT'S BEST OF 1976
2006 was a pretty disappointing year for new records. Disco-punk has experienced an unsettling newfound popularity and, just as it did 30 years ago, the state of popular music is looking pretty bleak. So here's my top picks for '76.

Ramones - *Ramones*
The first and best full-length from New York's premiere punks. 14 songs, all hits, nothin' longer than two-and-a-half minutes.
Kiss - *Destroyer*
Following their momentous breakthrough album *Alive*, the Detroit City rockers hit the studio and recorded their fifth record. While Ace was too busy with a card game to record on certain tracks, Alice Cooper's guitarist Dick Wagner filled in.
The Stooges - *Metallic KO*
Smeared in peanut butter and broken glass, this live album was recorded to four-track by guitarist James Williamson, and is comprised of two Stooges shows, one of which ended up being their last.
Blondie - *S/T*
New York new wave in its infancy. Poor sales led to the Private Stock label dropping the band, who were soon picked up by Chrysalis and skyrocketed to stardom. The current reissue features a killer cover of the Shangri-Las' "Out In the Streets
Black Sabbath - *We Sold Our Soul For Rock 'n' Roll*
Man, getting stoned is the greatest
The Damned – "New Rose" (single)
Forget the brutal Duff-led cover of G n' R's *The Spaghetti Incident?*, nothing can hold a candle to the original version, considered to be the UK's first punk record.
Tom Waits - *Small Change*
Classic Tom Waits, ripe with stories, songs of down-and-out dames, dancers and drunkards. Essential listening for brokenhearted booze hounds.
AC/DC - *High Voltage*
The Young brothers and Co. put Aussie rock on the map with this stellar '76 album. Slightly more glammed-out than their later releases, but the balls are still big as ever
Alice Cooper - *Goes to Hell*
While critics dogged this follow-up to 1975's *Welcome To My Nightmare* for its corny disco drumming, the album's campy creepy proto-metal and witty lyrics keep it from falling flat.
The Runaways - *S/T*
The album that would make stars out of ch-ch-cherry bombs Joan Jett and a 16-year-old Lita Ford. One of the first rock albums from an all-girl group, the Runaways preceded the Riot Grrl movement that would come 15 years later.

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FRANÇOIS MARCHAND
THE FM DIAL

THE BIG BUZZ
AH, THE BUZZ. WE'VE HAD A GOOD LOOK AT some pretty hype-tastic stuff all year long, and now that the dust is settling it's time to look back upon the good, the bad, and the downright ugly side of 2006. The FM Dial gathered some of its faithful buzz contributors for a closer look at the past year, and what they expect to make it big in 2007.

DAVE JOHNSTON (AKA DJ DAVID STONE)
1. What is your buzz band/act for 2007?
He was already a buzz in 2006, but I think 2007 is going to be a huge milestone for Cadence Weapon. I think he's primed for even bigger things. As a DJ, I'm looking at producers like Mikel Curcio, The Klaxons, Cassino & Laben, Mason, Shlomi Aber and Christian Paduraru to make things interesting. And the new Bloc Party album is solid, solid, solid.
2. What was your biggest buzz surprise for 2006?
Peter, Bjorn, and John—I LOVE THAT SONG! "Young Folks" is easily one of my favourite songs of the year. I also dug Justin Timberlake's "My Love" and the Luke Chable mix of "Vice" by BC producers Shiloh.
3. What was your biggest buzz disappointment for 2006?
Britney's junk.

KRIS BURWASH (LISTEN RECORDS)
1. What is your buzz band/act for 2007?
Well, considering the Touch & Go web site has been alluding to a new Shellac album, it's gotta be that. If Shellac ACTUALLY releases a new album in 2007, it'll be like fucking *Scanners*—heads popping all over the place. That said, I wouldn't hold my breath for it, but I might for the Last Deal's album. The rough mixes sound pretty awesome.
2. What was your biggest buzz surprise for 2006?
Probably the one thing that shocked me the most this year was the debut by Burial. The first time I heard it I wrote it off as not my bag, yet I was strangely compelled to keep listening to it. There is something very awesome about this album. While it comes out of the UK's dubstep and garage scene, it at times has more in common with ambient Eno or a Morricone score.
3. What was your biggest buzz disappointment for 2006?
I rarely have a bad thing to say about Sonic Youth, but every now and then... *Rather Ripped* has got to be the worse SY record since *Washing Machine*. Yeah, "incinerate" is good, but the sheer stupidity of the lyrics in "Sleeping Around" nullifies any of the decent tracks. Mind you, I'd still take a bad Sonic Youth album over a lot of other crap.

JAY HANNLEY (CJSR 88.5)
1. What is your buzz band/act for 2007?
What am I looking forward to? The new release by Of Montreal—*Hissing Fauna: Are You the Destroyer?* comes out in January, and a brand new yet-untitled Dinosaur Jr. album comes out some time this spring.
2. What was your biggest buzz surprise for 2006?
After seeing them live in Toronto, I firmly believe that the Hold Steady can save rock 'n' roll.
3. What was your biggest buzz disappointment for 2006?
How about we tie up the Arctic Monkeys and Emily Haines together, shove them in the back of a broken down van, and blow it up? Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

JASON MANNING (SONIC 102.9)
What is your buzz band/act for 2007?
There is a band that I have become an instant fan of. They are called Silversun Pickups. Here at Sonic we just started playing a new song of theirs called "Lazy Eye." It almost sounds like early Smashing Pumpkins and I guess what really hooked me on the band was seeing them perform on Letterman recently. If you care for my opinion, go pick up their new disc *Carnavas*. I suggest you "YouTube" their video for the song as well. They will be here in Edmonton opening up for the sold out Snow Patrol in April of 2007 at The Shaw. I choose Silversun Pickups as my first buzz band of 2007.

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HALO

music

Goodbye bad times

Make fun your New Year's Eve resolution

[illegible] OULD BE [illegible] Bond. Or ve[illegible]

[illegible]ran your evening wi[illegible] at **Ensemble De La Rue** [illegible] Holy Trinity Anglican Church ($1[illegible] $12 for students at TIX.) Starting at [illegible] there. With plenty [illegible] re a nice meal [illegible] ing in the New Year wi[illegible]

[illegible] both student [illegible] seem to want to get [illegible] At [illegible] course of the following parties you will get a big one and probably [illegible] blisters on your feet fro[illegible]

Rather than throw opposing parties [illegible] three different sections of the **Citadel Theatre** for a massive bash that Connected Entertainment is [illegible]ing. If **Shout Out Out Out Out**'s gig last year [illegible] is any indication, a [illegible] et to the party may be [illegible] has been added to the [illegible] w, with **MSTRKRFT** coming [illegible] th expected energetic tech no and electro and a massive support list **including DJs Dusty Grooves, Nestor Delano, and Luke Morrison**. $30 tickets are [illegible] but $50 dollar tickets are almost sold [illegible] with some still available at Foosh, Black [illegible]d and YESS hair salon. Ticket price at the [illegible] (if any remain) will be $75.

If you want to hear some music that you [illegible] and party within a movie theme that you s[illegible] still, **Dante's Bistro** on the west end invite [illegible] at "Casino Royale 007." [illegible] $109 for the [illegible] no extravagance [illegible] skip dinner and keep the [illegible] ageable $29 per person for the party [illegible] ket after midnight, and one... and two [illegible] it seems that your party engine is stuck in morning mode, make this year the one [illegible] discover **GOMP**'s New Year's parties. Starting at 10 pm with over 20 DJs and four time-traveling rooms journeying from 1728 Paris, [illegible] ket for $30 through G[illegible] available at www.[illegible] will be a good time and that you'll or[illegible] up going to all of their parties [illegible] year as well.

PROSPER PRODANIUK

We jam Econo

Crime Wave spreads to downtown 'Lodge

THE FAT DAVE CRIME WAVE
W/ The Get Down. Sun, Dec 31. E[illegible] Locker Room Pub (1[illegible]209-10[illegible] 9 pm. Info 421-1026, $10

THE ECONOLODGE IS THE GREATEST PLACE on Earth.

So says Dave Johnston, aka Fat Dave of The Fat Dave Crime Wave. Initially conceived as a solo outlet for Johnston after the dissolution of his former band, the Crime Wave has since developed a semi-permanent line-up and a raw, driven rock 'n' roll sound drawing heavily on both blues and punk rock influences. Think ZZ Top meets Social Distortion, with whiskey soaked vocals and a driving beat.

This New Year's marks the second occasion that his band will play at the colorful downtown establishment, this time joined by local rockers The Get Down. "We basically went and begged them to let us put on a show there last New Year's Eve. It wasn't out of any dissatisfaction with any of the other venues in town, but more to do with playing at a place we liked that had great karaoke and cheap beer."

Though it took a fair bit of convincing, the Econolodge has since become a regular show venue ("whenever anyone takes the initiative"), with a relationship growing between the bands and the bar staff. "This year they straight up told me 'This New Year's is yours,'" enthuses Johnston.

The last year has been eventful for The Fat Dave Crime Wave, as the band (comprised of members from long-time Edmonton rockers Greyhound Tragedy) plugged away in the studio from about March until fairly recently. "We're actually just waiting on the masters now. The whole process took a fair bit of time, but should see release... March-ish? That's very unofficial, by the way," he laughs.

Johnston was vigilant on making sure that his band didn't fall off the radar during the recording process, playing just over a show a month since the band's inception in fall of 2005.

As rock 'n' roll becomes ever more molested by the '80s, Johnston hopes to rail against current trends by doing what comes naturally to him. "It's all just *Dance Dance Revolution* to me, and I'm really not feeling it. These bands are having fun and selling lots of records, and good for them—but I just don't get it. The latest fad never got anyone anywhere. It's got to come from the heart."

The upcoming year will hopefully find both Fat Dave along with partners in crime Greyhound Tragedy hitting the road, heading out "as far as they can go" across Canada. "A record is basically an excuse to tour," explains Johnston. "I'm sure some nights I'll be roadie-ing for them, and some nights they'll just be playing behind me, but hopefully we'll be able to book both bands into venues. That way, we'll at least get twice as many drink tickets."

JAMES STEWART

Brave new words

Eshod Ibn Wyza's wild rap in motion

ESHOD IBN WYZA
Double CD release W/ Corvid Lorax, Sat. Dec 30, Starlite Room (10030-102 St.). 8 pm. Info 428-7827 or www.starliteroom.ca, $12

ESHOD IBN WYZA IS THE BRAVEST GROUP IN Edmonton. Their new album *Ravenous* is a sprawling mix of ideas, where they utilize live instrumentation, sampled beatscapes, esoteric rapping, and singing in order to form Edmonton's first take on psych rap. The drugged up boys (and girl) rap over everything from jaunty blues samples to Latin-tempered Spanish guitars to weird, undulating glitch. They can apparently handle anything.

"All of us are coming from different backgrounds with different ideals and that creates something completely different than what we had before," says emcee Corvid Lorax, born Karan Singh. "It's like a green dragon, a gold dragon, a red dragon, and a blue dragon get together, and then they're a platinum dragon. It's kinda like Wu Tang, but we're not really like them. [We're] individuals coming together to be greater than the individual parts."

And while Singh doesn't agree with constant comparisons to New York's Wu-Tang Clan, the best example of a similar group that I'd bring up would probably be Anticon's Deep Puddle Dynamics: a relatively innovative crew (in this case, composed of Slug of Atmosphere, Sole, Alias, and Doseone) of vastly different characters with divergent viewpoints, all rapping towards a common goal.

"We don't always get along and we don't always agree on everything, but it's like a five-pointed star," says Singh. "They are all totally different but we support each other. Conflict makes a creative spark."

Singh's group has a reputation for a wide array of revolving members, including—but not limited to—street busking rock star D.B. Buxton, spoken word artist Hypolyte "A", producer and label-head Madame Wang, vocalist Solar Warrior, and proficient freestyler Crow-Box One-String. This wild mix of personalities and styles leads to an on-stage franticness that typically hypes up or confounds its audience.

"[Our shows] are loosely thrown together but still tight because we feel the shit. Songs will turn out differently live because we'll just do it by accident. In the end, if you're convinced of your own style and status, you'll influence the audience."

The negative aspect of being a loose collective in a city of rigid expectations and perceptions is that when you aren't hitting cues, it's more highly scrutinized. The band is aware of this. "The next thing is stepping our game up and tightening up the whole ship. [illegible] ard until now," mentions Singh. "We need to do this in order to transcend to the next level. You can't always just expect things to fall into your lap."

And no matter how experimental the music is, the ultimate goal is always quite straightforward: "If I can inspire 10 kids, then they will go and inspire more people to do things."

ROLLIE PEMBERTON

cd reviews

MOGWAI
Zidane: A 21st Century Portrait OST
(Wall of Sound)
★★★☆☆

AT FIRST LISTEN, IT SEEMED THAT ZINEDINE Zidane must have had the most depressing life in the history of football. Upon learning that the film in question was not a biographical portrayal of the man, but rather an artsy and literal exploration of his role on the football pitch, the songs on *Zidane* began to make more sense

Playing with space and feel, Mogwai take an approach that calls to mind some of their earlier efforts, though never really allowing for some of the more explicit sonic experiments or huge climaxes that punctuated that era (excepting the last track, a half-hour delay-soaked collage of sound). *Zidane* instead focuses on repetitive and studied themes throughout the record, occasionally allowing for moments of sunshine, but generally keeping the mood brooding and sullen.

Throughout, the restraint the band is exercising is palpable, and one can't help but feel that Mogwai have moved beyond this method of songwriting. The soundtrack is an interesting aside to their catalogue, and those less impressed with Mogwai's concise rock tendencies of late will find some reprieve in *Zidane*'s gentler and nostalgic moments

JAMES STEWART

JOHN FOXX & LOUIS GORDON
From Trash
(Metamatic)
★★★★½

MANCUNIAN DJ LOUIS GORDON HAS ONCE again managed to coax Thames Valley U lecturer Dennis Leigh in assuming his renowned John Foxx persona and record a fourth album of new wave-tinged electro-pop—proving once again that one needn't hardly bother with all those new wave revivalists when some of the movements originators, like Foxx, are still around.

Those wailing machines that brought Foxx's Ultravox fame back in the late '70s are still present in Foxx's soundscape, but have also been upgraded with gimmicks that could make all the Imogen Heap's out there gasp for breath

Goldfrapp may have cornered Gary Numan, but they'd better watch their backs where Foxx & Gordon are concerned.

All in all, yet another essential release for all electro fiends—regardless of whether they recall that Ultravox once was a mid-'70s glam band called Tiger Lily, or you first learned about it here.

LECH LINKIEL

TALL FIRS
Tall Firs
(Ecstatic Peace)
★★★★☆

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR "Ecstatic Peace?" Well, I think of crippling, loud, harsh, and abrasive noise music, which blames the world for all its misery, and takes its pain out on you, the dear listener. Surprise overwhelms, then, when you hear Tall Firs, a band about a thousand times quieter than anything else on Ecstatic Peace's roster, but probably a million times more engaging.

Tall Firs are an acoustic, folk-ish band, but that isn't to say that their music isn't original or weird enough to create the sense of infamy required to take up space on Thurston Moore's label. Essentially, this band sounds like really early Sonic Youth played on acoustic instruments, and that's probably what drew ol' man Moore to Tall Firs in the first place

Tall Firs display a rare ability to harness both the critical guitar interplay of some of the best no wave bands ("More To Come") and the pop sensibilities of the Beach Boys ("Road to Ruin") all with the backbone of a tribal, minimalist, and experimental approach to folk. Hypnotic, you say? Of course it is. After all, this is Ecstatic Peace we're talking about here

EAMON MCGRATH

LADY SOVEREIGN
Public Warning
(Universal)
★★★★☆

LIKE AN AVENGING ANIME CHARACTER, LADY Sovereign packs an audible punch on her debut album *Public Warning*. The pint-sized Brit lets loose and runs off her mouth on the parental advisory-labeled record as she calls out Tony Blair, long work days, fashion, and even a few pop star maidens. But this feisty fem isn't like other rap artists—displaying a "peaches and cream" complexion, this lady with a taut side-pony tail and jet-black eyeliner challenges the rapper edifice.

It's not that she is a lame duck, she is definitely abrasive—but not in a dark and violence-opposed way. Instead, she's precocious and self-deprecating, her word-weaving exercises her British wit with lyrics like "I'm that funky little monkey with the tiniest ears/I don't like drinking fancy champy/I stick with Heineken beers/Whoops I might burp in your face/A little unladylike what can I say."

With eccentric and untraditional statements like these, paired with infectious energy injected tracks, this spouting maven entertains while she rips the rap envelope wide open.

SARAH HOYLES

HILLS LIKE WHITE ELEPHANTS
Hills Like White Elephants EP
(Champion City)
★★★★☆ L

YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, YOU BETTER N[illegible] cry...

Wait—Christmas has come and go[illegible] hasn't it? Well, it's going to be Christmas [illegible] year long if you pay close attention to wh[illegible] the folks at Champion City Recor[illegible] doing. Just perk your ears up for a secon[illegible] and you'll realize we have a powerho[illegible] motion in Edmonton.

First up, Hills Like White Elephant[illegible] Four tracks, angularly building up [illegible] compromise—just pure, non-stop, cl[illegible] up rockin'.

What really makes HLWE's first (if sh[illegible] effort, is that it manages to be em[illegible] engaging without being, ahem, emo. [illegible] the riffs swell and burst accordingly. [illegible] patterns go where they should. Yet, there [illegible] twisted sensitivity to the record that p[illegible] something better and crushingly huge [illegible] the attention to detail Champion C[illegible] been able to bring to this and the [illegible] upcoming releases (Desiderata, Portrait[illegible] watch out!) is spellbinding.

If HLWE's self-titled debut EP is [illegible] glimpse into the future, you better belie[illegible] have a new movement on the rise in E[illegible] And that's the best news I've heard this yea[illegible]

FRANÇOIS MARCHAN[illegible]

DAYS IN THE LIFE
TOM MURRAY

Thursday: Zapato Negro, *Self Titled*, Cellar Live

The first album for this three-year-old Vancouver-based Latin jazz quintet highlights their impeccably tasteful ensemble playing during a two-night stint at the Cellar Jazz Club

Tasteful, yes, but not so carefully played that fiery moments don't escape, like Ivan Soto's frenetic conga explosion over the last half of "Jazz Tumbao Thing," or the escalating wildness of Andre Carrasquero's piano during "Segundo Recreo."

Friday: KHLYST, *Chaos Is My Name*, Hydra Head Recordings.

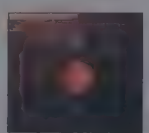
Nothing says Black Christmas quite like this often clangorous, at times ambient free improvisation with black metal shrieking (courtesy of Runhild Gammelsæter) under the direction of experimental guitarist James Plotkin (Phantomasher, Old Lady Drivers). Strangely fascinating, but also blessedly short (under 35 minutes)—sort of a sister recording to John Zorn's Painkiller project, but without any attempt at "imposing" musical structure.

Saturday: Away Ri'o!, *Self-Titled*, Aaargh! Records.

These sleepy rockers from Victoria (led by raspy voiced Joey MacDonald) sprawl all over the place—half the songs sound like they're alluding to some other secret song (as with "The Good Mother of Ms. Mary Mae"), spin out sweetly finger-picked numbers with touches of French horn ("Couth & Coy") or appropriate the patented Crazy Horse groove ("Good For Me, Good For You").

Sunday: Abernethy, *College Grove*, Spinning Gold Records

Meditative chamber-folk from Vancouverite Joe Abernethy and friends—stately, melodic and with a distinct Beatles influence running throughout ("Astronaut," "The Voice").

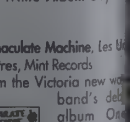


Monday: Corvid Lorax, *Kalashni Cancerous*, Little Whore Records.

Just one of the many MCs from Edmonton's own Eshod Ibn Wyza, rhyming in his own breathless style over tracks by Madame Wang, Akendi, The Specialist, and DJ Overshine on his first solo album. Lorax is fast, he's furious ("Terrorhythm"), and he's also full of unexpected local music trivia ("Back when the smalls were doing shows in the Arts Barns – remember?" "Whyte Knights"). Excellent production all around—highly recommended

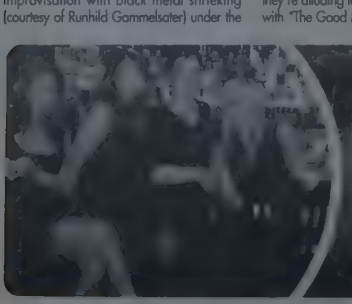
Tuesday: The Walkmen, *Pussy Cats, Starring The Walkmen*, Record Collection.

Possibly the strangest record I've come across in years—a re-recording of Harry Nilsson's cover album (produced by John Lennon), which featured two Nilsson originals up against a motley assemblage of songs like "Loop de Loop," "Rock Around the Clock," "Subterranean Homesick Blues," and "Save the Last Dance for Me." You heard correctly—this is a cover album of a now all but forgotten cover album by a man all but forgotten by the mainstream. Cool! As whimsical as that sounds—and Nilsson himself was a very whimsical man—the original was unsettling and even heartbreaking. The Walkmen (ex-members of Jonathan Fire*Eater) keep the disquieting feel, updating the sound while keeping true to the spirit of the original. Added bonus—a mockumentary "making of" DVD that posits an alternate '60s universe where Nilsson is a worldwide superstar, and the Beatles are an obscure art-rock band whose recording of the *White Album* only sold 100 copies.



Wednesday: Immaculate Machine, *Les Uns Mais Pas Les Autres*, Mint Records

Six songs from the Victoria new wave band's debut album *Oper[illegible] and Zera[illegible]* slightly reca[illegible] and re-sung [illegible] French Cafe[illegible] and not without its moments [illegible] "Bateau Brisé" "Sans Issue"—but nothing special.



Should old acquaintances be forgot....
New Years Eve at Duke's Bar & Grill can help you make new ones!
Make new friends over a 3 course dinner,
and kick up your heels with Platinum Sounds
tickets $30
"Now that's an evening out!"

The Northside's Premiere Sports Lounge
DUKE'S
BAR & GRILL
101 12650 151 ave. 476-385[illegible]
Your neighborhood bar and grill

THE SAM IS MY SHEPARD Theatre Network's *True West* wanted for nothing

Edmonton's year of

SEE's theatre scribes pick of the best of 2006

EDMONTON'S THEATRE COMMUNITY sure had a grand ride in 2006.

Looking back over my list of plays I attended over the past 12 months, all 100 of them, I was amazed not only at how many of these shows were just so out-and-out memorable, but how beautifully eclectic the year has been.

From fluffy comedies to full-blown political polemics the year that was served such an array of performance offerings that I can't see how you could walk away from the theatrical table unsated.

GILBERT'S TOP FIVE SHOWS OF 2006 (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER), AND MORE

1 *10 Times 2: The Eternal Courtship*
Shadow Theatre

It's a total thrill to be a part to watch playwright David Belke develop as a playwright. I loved this work when I first saw it mounted at the Fringe a few years back and was happy to see that I wasn't embroidering the show in hindsight. The fact that this play also handled a change in cast so seamlessly also speaks well for the legs of this show over the long-run and beyond Edmonton.

2 *Hey Countess!*
Teatro La Quindicina

Yeah, I know this play got a less than smooth ride critically (this is a far more intelligent and spiritually-grounded show than it was given credit for), but I personally loved it. I was especially grooving to the idea of a character being moved so far by aesthetic outrage, as well as the fact it showed playwright Stewart Lemoine's continuing evolution as a writer of awe-inspiring depths and emotional veracity.

3 *The Pillowman*
Citadel Theatre

Okay, given that I really wasn't totally sold on the text of this play, this was one of the best realized productions I've seen in ages: well-acted, beautifully designed, wonderfully produced and ever-so-deftly directed. In particular I was amazed at how the whole thing came together on the artistic level to animate a very abstract text in such a fully human and completely engaged manner.

4 *Private Lives*
Northern Light Theatre

This play just had to be on my top list for the sheer guts it must have taken for director Trevor Schmidt to break away from the generally stale drawing room takes on this Noel Coward classic and develop a completely contemporary realization. Yeah, it was loud and rude and slightly cold when poured into this new post-structural skin, but it worked, and was funny as all get out. I was also impressed to see a comedic side to Jeff Haslam that I had suspected was there and was thrilled to see emerge.

5 *True West*
Theatre Network

This Sam Shepard classic was interpreted in such a flawless and engaged fashion by director Bradley Moss that I now can not imagine this show being done in any other way. I was especially thrilled to see a take on this high-energy text that didn't get stewed in its own emotional juices. Overall, this is just one particularly shining example of the miracles Moss can work with the humble kitchen sink play. Also, it was great to see David McNally again; this man needs to grace our community's theatre boards much more in 2007.

Best Performance
John Ullyatt

This is a twofer pick, citing Ullyatt for his performances in both *I Am My Own Wife* as well as *The Pillowman*. As usual, this energetic and wildly charismatic actor was a delight to watch on stage in two meaty and controversial roles. Ullyatt manages to balance an enviable intellect with substantial physical and emotional grounding as an actor. In this case my citation is doubly meaningful because I wasn't totally happy with the scripts of both these shows. Then again, the sign of a really great performance is that ability to spin the silken purse from the hog's ear of a less than perfect text.

Best Director
Dennis Garnhum

This was a tough job: animating an ambitious text by Canuck playwright Joanna Mclelland Glass documenting her days as the personal secretary of the famous, and dying, American judge, Francis Biddle. This was one of bravest productions of the year, brainy when intellect was called for and emotional when emotions needed to be evoked. Oh, not to forget this was an uphill battle from the get-go, given the inherent challenge of mounting a spare, talky, two-hander play on the cavernous Shoctor Stage, a problem Garnhum engaged head-on.

Best Script
1984, **Jonathan Christenson**

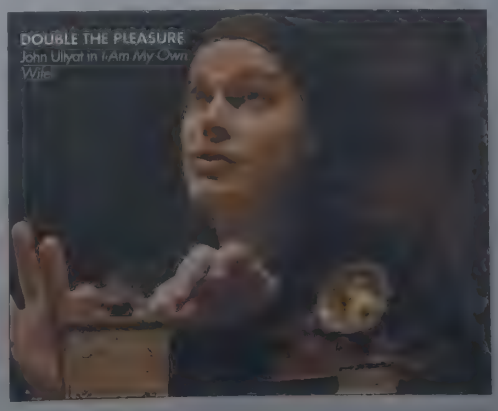
I'm a big fan of Christenson's work to start with and was extra impressed that he was able to dramatize *1984* in such a seamless fashion, especially given the reality that past theatrical interpretations of this books haven't always worked so well. I was also more than impressed at how he was able to create this script very much on the fly as he directed a bevy of teenagers towards opening night. Oh yeah, he did all of that while working in (to beautiful intellectual and dramatic effect) a Greek-like chorus and a significant musical component! Double plus good Jonathan!

Best Theatre Company
Free Will Players

I don't know how they manage it, but each and every summer they animate Shakespeare in a completely fresh, completely engaged and completely intelligent fashion. They spin as much as need to be spun, respect what needs to be respected and also come together as an obviously warm and fully connected ensemble. Oh yeah, they do all of this in an outdoor venue where they have to share the stage with the odd squirrel! Now that's talent and dedication.

Best Artistic Director
Bob Baker, Citadel Theatre

Yeah, I know I'm gonna get grief for giving the nod to the AD with the most resources and all the opportunity that goes with that, but I'm sticking by my decision. For starters, running a big theatre like the Citadel is probably more of a hindrance than a help to an AD with an eye for a high artistic prize, i.e., you spend more time herding cats than actually doing artsy things, so to manage to hit the heights that Baker does (picking and selling some pretty daring show selections as well as directing, plus all the mentoring he does) is a feat and three-quarters.



DOUBLE THE PLEASURE John Ullyat in *I Am My Own Wife*

GILBERT'S BEST OF THE REST

Best Political Play
Summit Conference, **Northern Light Theatre**

A great polarizer of audiences and critics, which is as it should be. While a daunting and not completely fully balanced play from the '70s this is still a work that has much to say and is surprisingly contemporary in its take on constructions and 21st century, second-wave identity politics. I also loved the take take on this production on the text that wasn't afraid of kitschy while never stirring the text.

Best Remount
Bigger than Jesus, **Citadel Theatre**

If there's anything harder to deal with on stage than politics, it has be religion, so you gotta love a like this that takes on crunchy endlessly meaningful theological issues and makes it work so lessly, in particular managing ance the intertwined personal and intellectual levels implied by any discussion of this subject matter. Actor Rick Miller and director Daniel Brooks also need to be given kudos on top of kudos for how much they are continuing to work on this show and how bravely and seamlessly they used technology in this piece.

Best NextFest and Best Fringe Shows

The best of NextFest for me was *The Crossroads of Fifth and Madison* while my best of Fringe pick was *Mules*. As for *Crossroads*, playwright and actor Ryan McKinley is a theatrical talent to watch for. This is a young man with a real sense of metaphor, who in both his text and delivery is not afraid to go big. As for *Mules*, I was thrilled to see Beth Graham and Daniela Vlaskalic together again writing and performing in yet another beautifully layered Fringe production.

Thespian on the Rise
Christopher Schulz

The best newcomer to the Edmonton community that hit my radar in 2006 had to be Schulz (The Fringe's *Neo-Nancies* and the Citadel's *Equus*). Schulz has tons of charisma and thespian intensity played with gormless honesty and amazing emotional honesty. I hope we see much, much more of this talented newbie in 2007.

Worst Stage Hair
While My Mother Lay Dreaming, **Shadow Theatre**

Okay, I remember high school in the '70s, and I don't remember our hair-dos and don'ts being that frightful. The hair in this performance was also a little bit indicative of the play's shortfalls in fully committing to its period realities, every now and then hiding behind kitsch and distancing hindsight when it should have been engaging its historical setting more fully.

GILBERT A. BOUCHARD

listings

PHONE: 430-9003 FAX: 432-1102 EMAIL: info@see.greatwest.ca DEADLINE: FRIDAY 5 PM

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK

PICK OF THE WEEK

CONNECTED NYE
CITADEL THEATRE

Jam with MSTRKRFT and Shout Out Out Out Out (how many Out's, again?) all night long, plus a host of other DJs and scenesters. Close enough to witness the fireworks over City Hall at midnight!

THURSDAY 28

ARMIN VAN BUREN, EDMONTON EVENTS CENTRE
No better way to sweat out all those Christmas sweets and bloat than with Van Buuren; the trance Netherlander ranks #2 worldwide, according to *DJ Mag*'s 2006 poll. (WEM)

FRIDAY 29

PUNK'D'S ROB PUE, THE COMIC STRIP
Funny-man Rob Pue headlines at The Comic Strip in WEM tonight and through the last bells of 2006 with local jokers Rick Bronson and Lars Calleiou. (Bourbon St., WEM)

SATURDAY 30

ESHOD IBN WYZA & CORVID LORAX, STARLITE ROOM
A double CD release celebrating these experimental E-town up-and-comers, blurring the lines between spoken-word, hip-hop, and instrumental music. (10030-102 St.)

SUNDAY 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE, DOWNTOWN
Skating, crowds of kiddies, and pyrotechnic revelry, the annual bash in the Square never ceases to delight. ETS runs for free until 3:30 am, so you can party on into the wee hours of 2007.

MONDAY 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH, YOUR LOCAL DINER
Schmancy sophisticates call it "brunch." How about we call it "Wake up at 3 pm and scarf bacon and eggs." Or Tofurkey leftovers. Mmmm.

TUESDAY 2

VOLVER, GARNEAU THEATRE
A dead mother returns to the mortal world to set her children straight in Pedro Almodovar's most recent tender tale, already stirring awards' season buzz and blather.

WEDNESDAY 3

THREE TRAVELLERS, ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA
A trio of Edmonton artists—Leo Wong, Louis O'Coffey, and Scott Berry—explore memories of travels & journeys in a variety of mediums. Until Feb 19. (2 Sir Churchill Square)

NEXT THURSDAY 4

TALES STORY CAFÉ
Relax. Detox. Rehydrate. And enjoy some tellers and tales on a quiet winter's night, featuring the talents of Marie Anne McLean, David Haas, and Dawn Blue. (10475-80 Ave.)

LIVE MUSIC

ALTERNATIVE

BACKROOM VODKA BAR *10324-82 Ave., (upstairs)* — Info: 436-4418

BLACK DOG *10425-82 Ave., 439-1082* — **Dec 30** Fractal Pattern

MEGATUNES *10355-82 Ave.* — Info: 434-6342.

NAKED CYBER CAFÉ *10354 Jasper Ave.* — **Jan 6** Spheres of Intelligence, w/ Jun Nakane.

NEW CITY *10081 Jasper Ave., Palladium Building, 429-CLUB* — **Thu** Trash Bingo w/ DJs Nazz Nomad & Beard of Bees **Dec 31** NYE party **Jan 3** DIY Wednesday w/ Jeremy Nischuk, Church of the Very Bright Lights & Desuderata

SIDETRACK CAFÉ *10238-104 St., 421-1326* — **Every Thu** The Kokanee Comedy Battle **Fri** Bobby Cameron w/ City Vox **Dec 29** 7 & 7 is, Hot Panda & AA Sound System **Dec 30** America Rosa **Dec 31** NYE w/ The Superband **Jan 3** First Aid Kit w/ Helden

STARLITE ROOM *10030-102 St 428-1099* — **Dec 30** Eshod Ibn Wyza & Corvid Lorax-Double CD release w/ GHU **Dec 31** NYE w/ Murder City Sparrows, Mad Bombers Society, The Igniters, RowdeyMen & On the Brink.

THE ONE ON WHYTE *10544-82 Ave., 437-7699* — **Every Fri & Sat** DJ Choklit Elvis & DJ Spyder

VELVET UNDERGROUND *10030-102 St 428-7827* — **Thu** NRMLS W.I.C.M w/ DJ Nik 7 **Dec 29** The Blazing Violets w/ PIND **Dec 30** Rolodex w/ In Love with the Struggle **Dec 31** NYE double party w/ The Starlite Room **Wed** Lushious Wednesday

WUNDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS *8120 - 101 St. 436-2286*

BLUES & ROOTS

BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ *9624-76 Ave., 989-2861* — Closed Dec 24-30, **Dec 31** NYE party w/ The Rault Brothers Band

BLUES ON WHYTE *10329-82 Ave. 439-5058* — Nightly until **Dec 31** Trevor Finlay Band

DUSTER'S PUB *6402-118 Ave.*—Info: 474-0997.

LIVEWIRE BAR & GRILL *1107 Knotwood Rd 440-1063* — Every **Mon** N. Gary Thomas & guests

WHISTLE STOP LOUNGE *12416-132 Ave. 451-5506*— **Dec 28-31** Backfire

XWRECKS *10143-50 St 466-8069* — **Dec 29** Slowburn

JAZZ

FOUR ROOMS *137 Edm City Centre East, 426-4767* — **Dec 28-29** Vanessa Rodrigues **Dec 30** Toque **Dec 31** NYE w/ Don Berner Trio & Shannon Tyler

HULBERT'S *7801-115 St., 436-1161* —**Wed** Wobbly Wednesday w/ dj frederick. Info: www.hulberts.ca

JEFFREYS CAFÉ *9640-142 St., 451-8890* — **Jan 5** Bruce & Lori Mohacsy **Jan 6** Marco Claveria.

YARDBIRD SUITE *10203-86 Ave. 432-0428* — Closed until Jan 26

POP & ROCK

CASINO EDMONTON *7055 Argyll Rd., 463-9467* — **Dec 29-30** Carson County **Dec 31** Colleen Roe & Cornerstone

CASINO YELLOWHEAD *12464-153 St., 424-9467* — **Dec 29-30** Catalyst **Dec 31** Almost ABBA.

BACKDRAUGHT PUB *9307-99 St., 430-9200* — **Dec 29** Burning Sands w/ Moritun.

HOMEGROWN SOUL SHACK *8102-10324-82 Ave., 989-7009* — **Every Sat**, 5 pm, live music.

JEKYLL & HYDE PUB *10610-100 Ave. 426-5381* — **Every Fri & Sat** Headwind **Dec 31** NYE party w/ Headwind

KINGSKNIGHT PUB *9221-34 Ave., 433-2599*

RENDEZVOUS *10108-149 St., 444-1822*

URBAN LOUNGE *8103-105 St., 439-3388* — **Dec 28** Whitewall w/ Typhoid Mary **Dec 29-30** 17 Speedhead **Dec 31** NYE w/ Mustard Smile

HOT SHOWS

DEC 28 — **Armin Van Buuren** *Edmonton Events Centre, WEM* w/ DJ Remy & David Stone. Tickets $25-$30 at TM, Foosh, Colorblind, Underground Clothing & Shadified Salon.

DEC 31 — **MSTRKRFT & Shout Out Out Out Out** *Citadel Theatre, 9828-101A Ave.* w/ Luke Morrison, Nestor Delano, Dusty Grooves, Cain, Darcy Ryan & Johnny D'Erico. Tickets at Blackbyrd, Foosh, Connected Events & TM.

DEC 31 — **A Vaudevillian New Year's Eve** *Roxy Theatre, 10708-124 St.* Tippy Agogo, Bill Bourne, Mile Zero Dance, Laurelle, Leo.FX & others. Tickets at TIX.

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM 12845-102 Ave., 453-9100 — Until Jan 1 Models of historical Edmonton, the Northern Alberta Lego Users Groups showcase 11 models of historic Edmonton structures, including the High Level Bridge, the Misericordia Hospital, a grain elevator and a train display.

PUB MUSIC

ALEXANDERS LOUNGE *Chateau Nova Hotel, 159 Airport Rd.* — **Every Fri & Sat** Eric Miller.

ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL *7704-104 St., 432-4611*— **Dec 28-30** Chuck Rose **Dec 31** NYE w/ Duff Robinson

BLIND PIG *St. Albert, 418-6332* —Live music every second **Sat**.

BUD'S LOUNGE *Londonderry Mall 66 St. & 137 Ave.* — Every **Thu** 9pm Jam nite. **Every Sat** 9pm live entertainment

CEILI'S IRISH PUB *10338-109 St., 426-5555* — **Every Mon** Student Nights w/ Captain Tractor **Every Fri** kick it bro's **Every Sat** Jamaoke

THE NEW TAPHOUSE *9020 McKinney Ave., St Albert.* —Info. 458-0860

O'BYRNES IRISH PUB *10616-82 Ave., 414-6766* — **Mon** DJ Angus **Tue** Irish jam session w/ Shannon Johnson & Irish dancers **Wed** Chris Wynters of Captain Tractor & guests.

ROSE & CROWN PUB *10235-101 St., 426-7827* — **Thu-Dec 31** Don Johnston.

SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St., WEM, 444-1752* —**Thu-Sat** Tim Cotton.

SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall, 463-7788* — **Thu-Sat** Lyle Hobbs.

SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown, 10012-101A Ave., 426-7784* —**Thu-Sat** Duane Allen.

DANCE CLUBS

ALTERNATIVE

BACKROOM VODKA BAR *10324-82 Ave., (upstairs), 436-4418* — **Mon** Local Motive - House, progressive, techno w/ guests **Wed** Soulful Deep House w/ DJs Smoov & Nic-E **Fri** All Out Fridays w/ Shortround, Echo & Sweetz, mash-ups and dance-floor rhythms **Sat** Flava - hip hop w/ Shortround, Echo & guests **Sun** Moonlight Cinema 9 pm - *Simpsons*, a movie & DJ

BOOTS *10242-106 St., 423-5014* — Open 7 days/week. Happy Hour: 3 to 8 pm **Fri** Retro Disco **Sat** Flashback Saturdays w/ DJs Derrick & Manny Mulatto; Male Stripper, 11 pm.

BUDDY'S NIGHT CLUB *11725B-Jasper Ave., 488-7736* — Open Nightly 9-3 **Sun** Rotating drag shows in The Stardust Lounge w/ Mz Bianca & Mz Vanity Fair, GoDiva & Donnatella NE1 in the GoDonna Show, DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy **Mon** Amateur Strip Contest w/Mia Fellow & DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy **Tue** Free pool & tournament, DJ Arrowchaser **Wed** Hump Day w/ DJ Sexxxy Sean **Thu** Wet Undies contest w/ Mia Fellow & DJ WestCoastBabyDaddy **Fri** DJ Eddy Toonflash Dance Party, no cover before 10 pm **Sat** Undie Night (men only) free pool & tournament DJ Arrowchaser

DANTE'S BISTRO *17328 Stony Plain Road., 486 4448* — **Fri** Flirt Fridays text messaging singles party **Sat** DJ Johnny Sky. Info: www.dantesbistro.com.

DECADENCE *10018-105 St.* — **Sat** Soul Heaven Saturdays w/ T-bass & Femme Funk. First and last Saturday of the month for event info call: 990 1792 or www.etownrave page.com.

DEVLIN'S *10507-82 Ave., 437-7489*— Happy hour until 7 pm every night.

DEWEY'S *Powerplant (U of A)* — **Every Mon** Margarita of Sounds w/ Baggy and Pete-T, chills beats, dub reggae, hip hop.

FILTHY MONASTY'S *10511-82 Ave. (upstairs), 437 7489* — Happy Hour Every Day 5 -9 pm **Mon** Metal Mondays **Tue** Twisted Trivia **Wed** Bar star college night **Thu** Punk Rock Bingo **Fri & Sat** Shake Yo' Ass Weekend w/ DJ Serial K (dance, alt, rock retro) **Sun** Industry night, half price everything

HALO *10538 Jasper Ave., 423-4256* — **Fri** The Club - Soul, R&B, indie, Brit pop, new wave, reggae & classic punk w/ DJs Blue Jay & Travy D **Sat** For Those Who Know - deep house w/ Junior Brown, Remo, Waylon Sherrington & Luke Morrison.

JAX'S *12315-118 Ave., 448-3650*— **Fri** Whatao Funk w/ DJ Resident Funk & Matt Hatter, house drum 'n' bass **Sat** DJ Nostalgia & guests, house hardhouse, trance NC **Sun** Free pool all day, freestyle put your name down.

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE *10081 Jasper Ave 429-CLUB* — **Mon** Make it Munchie Mondays w DJ Dusty Grooves **Tue** In The Kraut w/ Dr. Erick mod R&B, northern soul 60's garage & mod revival **Wed** Robobot DJ 3000 **Thu** I Love 80s Fn Friday Night Freak Out w/ DJs Jebus & Anarchy Adam of CJSR & G-Whizz **Sat** Rock 'n Roll/Heaven n' Hell w/ Nazz Nomad & Beard of Bees **Sun** Rub A Dub w/ DJ Jebus & Anarchy Adam.

NEW CITY SUBURBS *10081 Jasper Ave., 429-CLUB* — **Thu** Bingo Trasheteria BingoThursdays w/ Nazz Nomad & Beard of Bees **Fri** Live Events Night **Sat** Saturday Sucks w/ Nik Rofeelya & Blue Jay **Wed** DIY Wednesdays, 4 original bands.

NIKKI DIAMONDS *8130 Gateway Blvd., downstairs 439-8006* — **Wed** Punk Night Wednesdays

ON THE ROCKS *11740 Jasper Ave., 482-4767* — **Fri-Sat** Live music **Thu** Salsa in the City, dance lessons & Cuban Salsa DJs.

PRISM BAR & GRILL *10524-101 St., 990-0038* — **Wed** Wings **Thu** Sports trivia. Call for upcoming events.

SAVOY BAR *10401-82 Ave.* — **Wed** Sabor: latin music w/ Cenzi **Fri** Bubi: transcontinental indie trash, w/ Flyboy **Sat** Wanderlust: balearic beats w/ Ben Hot **Sun** Mondo Electreau, '60s trash w/ DJ Dan Electreau.

STARLITE ROOM *10030-102 St.* — **Fri** Cherry Fridays w/ DJ Jason LP.

TANTRA *10147 Saskatchewan Dr., 434-8699* - **Mon** — **Thu & Sun** 5 pm - Midnight; **Fri & Sat** 5 pm - 2 am (Dancing 10 pm - 2 am)

THA BASSMENT INC. *125208-118 Ave., 488-7105* — Hip-hop, R&B, & Top 40 Music. All ages dance club every **Fri & Sat**.

THE ATTIC *10407-82 Ave., 433-1969* — **Wed** Hi-bell Night **Thu** Student Nite.

TICKETS LEGEND

ARD - Arden Theatre, 5 St. Anne Street, St. Albert, (780) 459-1542, boxoffice@st-albert.net, ardentheatre.com • **CIT** - Citadel Theatre, 9828-101A Ave., 425-1820, 1-888-425-1820, citadeltheatre.com • **HOR** - Horizon Stage, 315 Jespersen Ave., Spruce Grove, 962-8995, horizonstage.com • **TIX** - Tix on the Square, 9930-102 Ave., 420-1757, 1-877-888-1757,tixonthesquare.ca • **TM** - Ticket Master, 451-8000, ticketmaster.ca

THE ELEPHANT & CASTLE WHYTE AVE *10314-82 Ave., 439-4545* — **Thu** Sleeman Method Thursdays - DJ Headspin, down-tempo & eclectic hip hop. www.eandcwhyte.com

THE ROOST *10345-104 St., 426-3150* — **Thu** Gorgeous Hostess Dr. Lexi Tronic, drag kings & queens, burlesque & rotating shows **Fri** All request dance party w/ DJ Jazzy **Sat** Monthly theme parties, DJ Jazzy upstairs (new music), DJ Dan & Mike downstairs (retro music) **Sun** Fabulous drag show every Sunday w/ Hostess Connie Lingua & the Gay Game Show. Hours: Sun & Thu, 8 pm - 3 am, Fri & Sat, 8 pm - 4 am, closed Mon-Wed. Info. www.theroostniteclub.com.

TWILIGHT AFTERHOURS *10018-105 St.* — **Fri** Flashback house/hard w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy Inertia w/ guests **Sat** hard NRG/trance/funky w/ Jeff Hillis, Stix, Big Daddy, DTDR, Tweek!

UNION HALL *Argyll & 99st., 702-0318* — **Thu** Hi-ball specials **Fri** Ladies Night **Sat** T 'N' A Saturdays

VELVET UNDERGROUND *10030-102 St.* — **Tue** Trainwreck Tuesdays - Punk Rock **Wed** Lushious Wednesdays w/ The JBots **Thu** NRMLS WLCM w/ DJ Nik 7 **Sun** Where It's At Sundays w/ DJ Sweetz, Propa & 2 Live Drew.

WUNDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS *8120 - 101 St., 436-2286* — **Tue** Hipster Twister **Wed** Round One feat DJ Toma & Aminder Brown **Thu** In & Out feat. DJ Paul & Frank **Fri & Sat** Local DJs & bands **Sun** DJ ...rgon & co. w/ trance, dance & rave styles

AFTERHOURS *10028-102 St., (alley entrance)* — **Fri** Foundation Fridays - hard house/garage/breaks w/ Nic-E, Ryan Wade, Steven M, Bree, Dragon, Nestor Delano, Touretto, Johnny Dangerous, Tionna J. **Sat** Release Saturdays - funky/electek/hard house/techno w/ Luke Morrison, Tony Donohue, Erin Eden, Donovan, Tory P, Rob Tryptomene, Brian Doyle, Derkin, Tras Moteeson.

TOP 40

180° RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB *10730-107 Ave., 414-0233* — Every **Thu** Hip Hop & open mic **Fri** Sexy Friday Every **Sat** Dance Hall reggae night by Generation II Vexx & DJ Pooche w/ G-Unit Sound

BAR NONE *10545-82 Ave., 432-5058* — Drink specials all night **Fri & Sat**.

BILLIARD CLUB *#200, 10505-82 Ave., 432-0335* — Thu Tantric Thursdays, Live DJ, drink specials.

BLIND DUCK *10416-118 Ave., 479-7193* — **Wed** & Fri DJ Grand Master Rich Carr

CAFÉ SELECT *10018-106 St., 428-1629* — **Fri** DJ Slacks & Tryptomene.

CALIENTE NIGHT CLUB *10815 Jasper Ave., 425-0850* — **Thu** Urban Substance Ladies Night w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew featuring DJs InVinceable, ShortRound, Echo, SpinCycle, BabyGirl & Touch It **Fri** Funktion Fridays w/ DJ InVinceable, Bomb Squad, Weapon X & BabyGirl **Sat** SoulOut Saturdays **Sun** Ladies Night w/ DJ Invinceable, **Wed** Old Skool w/ DJ Shoka-Sean, DJ Sin & DJ Instigate, **Tue** Bashment Tuesdays reggae night w/ Bomb Squad, Q.B., Chrome Nine & weekly guest DJs.

CELI'S IRISH PUB *10338-109 St., 426-5555* — **Mon** Get Your Funk On w/ Quake **Fri** Cinco De Mayo **Sat** Various Fundraisers, **Wed** Hot Wheels.

CHASE NIGHTCLUB *10345-105 St., 969-6969* — **Tue** Calypso & Latin dance **Fri** Status Friday, R&B, hip hop & reggae.

CHIMMY'S *8318-144 Ave., 478-1770* — **Sat** Ladies Night, Top 40 **Sun** Happy hour all day, free pool.

CLAREVIEW PUB *132 Ave & Victoria Tr., 414-1111* — **Tue & Thu** Karaoke **Wed** DJ Lex & DJ Fiore **Sun** DJ Fiore plays today's hottest hits & yesterday's classics NC ever!

CRISTAL LOUNGE *10336 Jasper Ave., 426-7521* — **Fri** Fundraiser Night, call 990-3692 for bookings **Sat** Legendary Urban Saturdays - R&B, hip hop reggae, soca w/DJ Invinceable & MC J-Money $8

ELEVATION LOUNGE *10309 81 Ave. (upstairs), 433-4979* — DJ 4Play playing the best of Top 40 & retro music all week long **Wed** Guest bartender **Thu** Salsa Night, 8 pm NC

ESCAPE ULTRA LOUNGE *[illegible]* — **Wed** Wild On Wednesdays, Ladies Night **Fri** Fahrenheit Fridays **Sat** Saturday Night House Party w/ [illegible] Metropolis feat Jin the emcee live in concert Info www.escapenightclub.com

FEVER *West Edmonton Mall, Phase 3* — **Wed** Industry Night **Fri** DJ Shocker **Sat** Saturday Night Fever Info: www.fevernightclub.com

FLUID LOUNGE *Jasper & 109 St., 906-7939* — **Sat** DJ Jon Jähn

FUNKY BUDDHA *10341-82 Ave.* - **Tue** Cool Latin Tuesdays, dance lessons at 8 pm.

GALLERY LOUNGE *Mayfield Inn, 16615-109 Ave., 930-4061* — **Thu** Rock 'n' Roll Trivia **Fri & Sat** DJ Rory

GAS PUMP *10166-114 St., 488-4841* - **Fri & Sat** dance music by DJ Christian **Sun** Open on long weekend Sundays Dance music by DJ [illegible] Mandatory coat check [illegible] charge

GINGUR SKY LOUNGE *11505-118 Ave.* — Every **Thu** Urban Substance Thursdays w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew Info [illegible]

GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL *10045-109 St., [illegible]* — **Fri & Sat** Top 40 w/ dancing **Sun** Industry night

H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE *10044-82 Ave. 433-5794* — **Tue & Thu & Sat & Sun** Karaoke [illegible] Double Jack plays the best in dance, rock & pop

IRON HORSE *8101 103 St., 438-1907* — **Fri** DJ Loose Cannon **Sat** Urban dance party w/ DJ 420

KELLY'S *11540 Jasper Ave., 451-8825* — **Mon** Free Pool **Wed & Sun** Karaoke Happy Hour [illegible] am - 7 pm daily

KINGSKNIGHT PUB *9221-34 Ave, 433-2599* — **Thu** Live music, karaoke w/ Smirking Jay in the Venue **Fri** Ladies Night in the Venue w/ male dancers 8 pm, karaoke 11 pm, live band 10 pm in the Kingsknight **Sat** Karaoke in the Venue 9 pm, live bands 10 pm in the Kingsknight.

LIVEWIRE BAR *1163 Knottwood Rd., 440-1063* — **Thu - Sat** DJ Dave **Sun** Karaoke

METRO *10250-106 St* — **Wed, Thu & Sat**, info: 990-[illegible]

NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL *6108-90 Ave., 490-1999* — **Fri** Live Music **Sat** Ladies Night & Live Music

NIKKI DIAMONDS *8130 Gateway Blvd., downstairs, 439-8006* — **Fri & Sat** DJ w/Dancing, Top 40 & requests

OVERTIME BROILER & TAPROOM *10304-111 St., 423-1643* — **Thu** Extreme Thursdays feature cheap drinks & cool music

OVERTIME BROILER & TAPROOM SOUTH *Whitemud Crossing & 106 St., 485-1717* — **Thu - Sat** DJ Mikee

PEPPERS *111 Ave & St. Albert Tr., 451-8022* — **Tue** Requests w/ Wyld Stallions **Wed** Wing night **Fri & Sat** Live music

PUCKS *11845 Wayne Gretzky Dr S, 471-1231* — **Fri** Top 40, '80s & rock 'n' roll, ladies specials, cool atmosphere, the newest club on the block

[illegible] *10131-97 St., 474-7322* — **Fri & Sat** house trance, R&B beats, DJ Venus & guests

RATT *7th Floor SUB bldg, U of A Campus* — **Sat** Athletes night w/ DJ Kriegs

RHYTHM & BREWS *4990-92 Ave.* — **Sat** Classic Rock Night

ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL *11715-108 Ave., 447-4727* — DJ Sociable Dave all week long

RUM *Phase II, WEM, 486-9494* - **Thu** Student night **Fri** R&B dance lessons **Sat** Reserve a Table **Sun** Industry night, dodgeball

RUNWAY NIGHTSPOT *Leduc Inn, 986-4018* — **Wed Sat** DJ Vincenzio

SELINA S *[illegible]* — Hip hop reggae soca R&B **Wed** [illegible] Wednesdays **Fri** [illegible] **Sat** [illegible] Saturdays

SPORTSWORLD INLINE & ROLLER SKATING DISCO *[illegible]* — **Tue** RETRO NIGHT [illegible] **Fri** Top 40 Request w/ a mix of [illegible] Jam Skater ShOrt D **Sat** [illegible] Request w/ a mix [illegible] al K & Shade **Sun** [illegible] Top 40 Request [illegible] Info www.sportsworld.ca

STOLLI'S *[illegible]* — **Sun** House [illegible] w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy [illegible] guest **Wed** [illegible]

STONEHOUSE PUB *[illegible]* — **Fri & Sat** DJ Clay

SUITE 69 *8232 103 St., 439-[illegible]* — **Wed Sat** [illegible] music

THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE *10765 Jasper Ave., [illegible]-7939* — **Thu** [illegible] Thursdays **Fri** [illegible] Fridays local house & international guest DJs

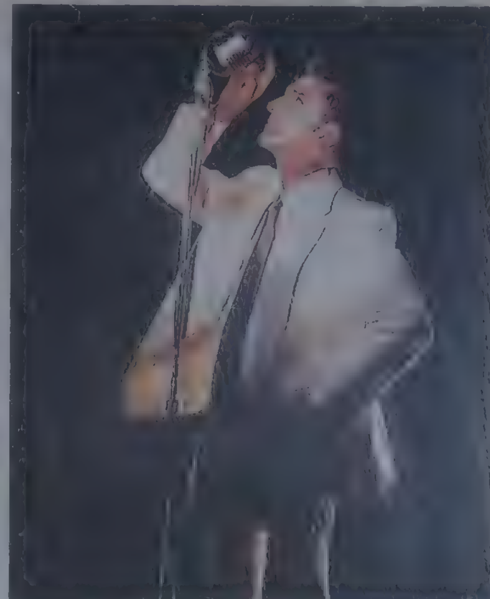
THE FOX PUB *10125-109 St., 990-0680* — **Fri & Sat** DJ retro tunes for everyone **Sun** live local music

THE FRAT *[illegible]* — **Sat** Sorority Saturday **Tue** Karaoke Night

THE GUILTY MARTINI SOUTH *10338-81 Ave. 433-[illegible]183* — **Thu** Urban Substance Thursdays w/ Invinceable, J-Money, Shortround & Echo **Sat** Supreme Saturdays w/ Invinceable, Big Sun & DJ Game. Open Sunday long weekends. Live DJ every night

THE NEW RUM *Phase II WEM, 486-9494* — **Thu** Urban Substance **Fri & Sat** Top 40 **Sun** Industry Sundays

THE NEW TAPHOUSE *9020 McKinney Ave., St. Albert*



YUK YUKS — 66 St. & 137 Ave. Londonderry Mall, 481-9857 - Dec 31 New Years Eve with Peter Kelamis

GIGS AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY 28

NEW CITY — **Nazz Nomad & Beard of Bees**; SIDETRACK CAFÉ — **The Kokanee Comedy Battle**; VELVET UNDERGROUND — **NRMLS WLCM w/ DJ Nik 7**; BLUES ON WHYTE — **Trevor Finlay Band**; WHISTLE STOP LOUNGE — **Backfire**; FOUR ROOMS — **Vanessa Rodrigues**; URBAN LOUNGE — **Whitewall w/ Typhoid Mary**; ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL — **Chuck Rose**; ROSE & CROWN PUB — **Don Johnston**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St, WEM* — **Tim Cotton**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall* — **Lyle Hobbs**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown* — **Duane Allen**.

FRIDAY 29

SIDETRACK CAFÉ — **7 & 7 is, Hot Panda & AA Sound System**; VELVET UNDERGROUND — **The Blazing Violets w/ PIND**; FOUR ROOMS — **Vanessa Rodrigues**; CASINO EDMONTON — **Carson County**; CASINO YELLOWHEAD — **Catalyst**; BACKDRAUGHT PUB — **Burning Sands w/ Morituri**; JEKYLL & HYDE PUB — **Headwind**; URBAN LOUNGE — **17 Speedhead**; ALEXANDERS LOUNGE — **Eric Miller**; ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL — **Chuck Rose**; ROSE & CROWN PUB — **Don Johnston**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St, WEM* — **Tim Cotton**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall* — **Lyle Hobbs**, SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown* — **Duane Allen**.

SATURDAY 30

BLACK DOG — **Fractal Pattern**; SIDETRACK CAFE — **America Rosa**; STARLITE ROOM — **Eshod Ibn Wyza & Corvid Lorax-Double CD release w/ GHU**; VELVET UNDERGROUND — **Rolodex w/ In Love with the Struggle**; BLUES ON WHYTE — **Trevor Finlay Band**; WHISTLE STOP LOUNGE — **Backfire**; FOUR ROOMS — **Toque**; CASINO EDMONTON — **Carson County**; CASINO YELLOWHEAD — **Catalyst**; JEKYLL & HYDE PUB — **Headwind**; URBAN LOUNGE — **17 Speedhead**; ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL — **Chuck Rose**; ROSE & CROWN PUB — **Don Johnston**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon St, WEM* — **Tim Cotton**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Capilano Mall* — **Lyle Hobbs**; SHERLOCK HOLMES *Downtown* — **Duane Allen**.

SUNDAY 31

SEE NEW YEAR'S EVE BOX

WEDNESDAY 3

NEW CITY — **DIY Wednesday w/ Jeremy Nischuk, Church of the Very Bright Lights & Desiderata**; SIDETRACK CAFE — **First Aid Kit w/ Helden**.

my look

Alisha Schick

Occupation: Retail Bitch/ Modest Fashion Designer

Where: "My disastrous sewing studio in the back of Foosh Apparel (10544 Whyte Avenue) This is where the magic happens."

Style: "Prowling cobra style"

Hair: "Stacey at Bamboo Ballroom is my stylist. I don't think most people know that the store is also a salon. Stacey gives me a great deal because I did all the sewing for the ped… room."

Into: "Everything from sewing to being a huge workout dork to driving Mustangs. I do have an incredible bunny named Herc. He was raised like a dog and cuddles in bed. He's great. I'm currently reading *Ishmael*, a novel by Daniel Quinn, but it's taking me forever. And on the weekends I hang out at KHz (97street and 102A Ave), it's a new venue located where the Sharktank used to be. A good show to check out there will be Paul Devro with Merky Mark & DJ Echo on January 26."

Not Into: "The craziness of Christmas, plus my birthday is also the 25th. Everyone always asks me if I get double the presents. For the record: Yes I do."

Wearing: "I found my shirt in Portland at a really cool thrift store. It was the best second hand shop I've ever been in. I came across this shirt without even looking. Every aspect of the design is hilarious: I just had to buy it. My chain was a Forever XXI find—c'mon... look how well it matches this shirt. The cuff is by IZM, a local jewelry designer, which I found at Bamboo Ballroom (98206 - 104th Street). My shoes were from one of the many Winners locations in Edmonton. And because I do all the hemming for Bamboo Ballroom, they paid me with these Paper Denim & Cloth jeans, which of course I also hemmed."

BRIDGET SMATLAN…

458-0860 — **Thu** DJ Slimfast & Lil' Jord.
THE ONE ON WHYTE *10544-82 Ave., 437-7699* — **Fri & Sat** DJ Choklit & DJ Spyder **Sun** Hospitality House Party
THE STANDARD *6107-104 St., 438-CLUB* — **Wed** Standard Issue Wednesdays **Thu** Limited edition, various DJs & events **Fri** Harman B & DJ Kwake Info www.the-standard.ca
WEISERS LOUNGE *957 Fir St., Sherwood Park, 464-3939* — **Tue** Latin Night **Fri** Classic rock **Sat**, 3 pm Live music jam **Thu, Fri & Sat** DJ Dino, large dance floor, Top 40

COUNTRY

COOK COUNTY SALOON *8010-103 St., 432-COOK (2665)* — **Wed - Sat**, 8 pm, Apr - Dec, **Thu - Sat**, Jan - Mar
COWBOYS COUNTRY SALOON *10180-180 St., 481-8739* — Country/Top 40, dress code in effect, $5 cover charge.
NEW WEST TAVERN *15025-111 Ave., 489-2511* — Country & honky tonk.
WILD WEST SALOON *12912-50 St., 476-3388* — **Wed** Free beginners dance lessons 8 - 9:30 pm **Thu** Free intermediate dance lessons 7:30 - 9:30 pm

CONCERTS

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO — **Jan 5**, 8 pm. *Myer Horowitz, U of a campus.* Tickets $28.50, $21.50 students/senior, available at TIX, Blackbyrd & Southside Sound
LAFAYETTE STRING QUARTET — **Jan 13**, 8 pm. *Convocation Hall U of A campus* Artists-in-Residence at the University of Victoria since 1991, the four women of the Lafayette String Quartet perform works by Haydn, Shostakovich, and Mendelssohn. Tickets $30, $20 seniors & $5 students at TIX, The Gramophone, or at the door
MOMENTS TO REMEMBER — **Jan 5**, 7:30 pm *Winspear Centre, Sir Winston Churchill Square.* An evening of nostalgia with The Four Lads, The Aces & The Diamonds. Tickets $47-$57 at the Winspear box office.
MUSIC AT CONVOCATION HALL — **Jan 12**, 8 pm *Convocation Hall, U of A campus.* Jolaine Kerley, soprano, Timothy Shantz, tenor & Jeremy Spurgeon, piano/harpsichord. **Jan 19**, 8 pm. Patricia Tao, piano. Tickets $20 adult, $15 student/senior, at TIX, U of a Music Department, or at the door
NORTHERN ALBERTA CONCERTO COMPETITION — **Jan 14**, 10 am - 4 pm. *Muttart Hall, Grant MacEwan College, 10050 MacDonald Dr.* This year's ten finalists include violinists, cellists & wind players ranging in age from 10 – 18 years. Tickets, half & full-day passes are available at TIX or at the door.
OPUS 27 — **Dec 28**, 7 pm. *Muttart Hall, MacEwan Campus, 10050 MacDonald Dr* The Anne Burrows Musical Foundation hosts the annual concert, featuring talents of scholarship recipients & creating public awareness of the Foundation's operations. Tickets $20 at TIX or at the door
PAPA ROACH — **Jan 30**, 7 pm *Edmonton Events Centre, WEM.* w/ It Dies Today Tickets $26.50 at TM or unionevents.com
PRO CORO CANADA: MOVING THE SOUL — **Jan 14**, 2 pm *Winspear Centre, Sir Winston Churchill Square.* The acclaimed choral emsemble performs Eric Whitacre's *Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine*, J.S. Bach's *Lobet den Herrn*, John Estacio's *Four Eulogies*, John Rutter's *Hymn to the Creator of Light*, George Shearing's *Songs & Sonnets* & a tribute to Moses Hogan. Tickets at the Winspear box office, 428-1414.
SHOWCASE BAND CONCERT — **Jan 12**, 7:30 pm *John L. Haar Theatre, 10045-155 St.* Under the direction of MacEwan's Allan Gilliland and Torben Holm-Pedersen, the Showcase Band brings together a wide range of styles including pop, rock and jazz. Ticket $10, $8 students/senior at TIX.

OPEN STAGE

THURSDAY

180° RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB *10730-107 Ave., 414-0233* — Every **Thu** Hip Hop & open mic
BACKDRAUGHT PUB *8307 99 St., 430-9200* — Open mic at 9 pm, everyone welcome.
BUDS LOUNGE *St. Albert 458 3826* — Open stage 8 pm - 11 pm
DUSTER'S PUB *6402 118 Ave., 474-5554 or 479-0997* — Jam session 9 pm, hosted by Brian Petch.
J & R BAR *4003-106 St., 436-4403* — Open Stage 8:30 pm, hosted by The Poster Boys
JUGS PUB *4450-82 Ave., 465-4046* — Open mic night
NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR *10354 Jasper Ave., 425-9730* — Open stage 8 pm, bring your own instruments, poetry, etc.
NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE *13535-109A Ave.* — Jam session 7 pm, hosted by the Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Association. Info Ray @ 457-9417
THE BLIND DUCK *10416-118 Ave., 479-7193* — Open stage hosted by Loren Burnstick, 9:30 pm - close

FRIDAY

GOBBLE GOBBLE *12831 Fort Rd.* — 8 pm - 1 am, hosted by Jay
WOODCROFT HALL *13915-115 Ave.* — **Last Fri** of the month. 7:30 pm, hosted by the Uptown Folk Club

SATURDAY

BLUES ON WHYTE *10329-82 Ave., 439-5058* — Blues jam 3 - 8:30 pm
CHIMMY'S *8318-144 Ave. 478-1770* — Open stage jams 3 - 7 pm.
JASPER PLACE HOTEL *15303 Stony Plain Rd., 489-1906* — Open Stage, 3 – 6 pm.
MORANGO'S TEK CAFE *10118-79 St.* — 7 pm - 10 pm, hosted by Tommy. Info: www.morangostek-cafe.com
NEW WEST TAVERN *111 Ave. & 151 St.* — Afternoon jam session at 3 pm.
ROSIE'S *10315-124 St., 482-1600* — **Sat**, hosted by the Wonitha Thomas Band.
THE DRUID *11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928* — 2 pm - 6 pm. All ages open mic

SUNDAY

CARGO & JAMES TEA SHOPPE *10634-82 Ave.* — Open Stage 7 – 10 pm hosted by Rhea March.
JASPER PLACE HOTEL *15326 Stony Plain Rd., 480-6444* — Open Stage hosted by Bruce Fox, 3 – 7 pm
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL *6108-90 Ave., 490-1999* — Open Stage w/ Willie James & Crowdad, 3 pm - 6 pm.
NIKKI DIAMONDS *8130 Gateway Blvd., 439-8006* — Open Jam w/ Mike.
O'BYRNES IRISH PUB *10616-82 Ave., 414-6766* — Open Stage hosted by Joe Bird, 9 pm.
WUNDERBAR *8120-101 St., 436-2286* — Open stage country jamboree w/ Rob Jarvis.

MONDAY

KINGSWAY LEGION *10425 Kingsway* — 7 pm, Capital City Jammers.
LB'S PUB *23 Akins Dr., St. Albert, 460-9100* — **Mon** Open stage w/ LB's house band
PLEASANTVIEW HALL *10860-57 Ave.* — 7 pm, Acoustic Instrumental old time fiddle jam hosted by the Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Society. Info: Willy @ 474-5270.
RIGOLETTO'S CAFE *10068-108 St.* — 7 pm.
SIDETRACK CAFE *10333-112 St., 421-1326* — **Every Mon** 8:30 pm, featuring Ben Spencer, NC.
THE DRUID SOUTH *2940 Calgary Trail, 465-6800* — Open Stage w/ Chris Wynters, 9 pm

TUESDAY

BLIND PIG PUB *St. Albert, 418-6332* — Evening jam w/ Mark Ammar.
LEGENDS PUB *6104-172 St., 481-2786* — Open jam night.
SECOND CUP *Churchill Square* — 7:30 pm hosted by Ron Taylor.
THE DRUID *11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928* — Chris Wynters hosts open stage at 9 pm.
YARDBIRD SUITE *10203-86 Ave., 432-0428* — Jam sessions 9 pm.

WEDNESDAY

ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL *7704-104 St., 432-4611* — Open mic 8 pm, hosted by Duff.
BUDS LOUNGE *Grandin Plaza, St. Albert, 458-3826* — Acoustic jam 8 pm.
CAFE BRITT *1-20 McLeod Ave, Spruce Grove* — Every **Wed**, 7-9 pm. Hosted by Eric Miller.
FIDDLER'S ROOST *8906-99 St.* — 8 pm, Little Flower Open Stage w/ Brian Gregg. $2 cover, doors 7:30 pm. Info: www.littleflower.ca. or 429-3624
PLEASANTVIEW HALL *10860-57 Ave.* — Bluegrass jam session 7:30 pm hosted by the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society. Info: 434-5997.
ROSSDALE COMMUNITY HALL *10135-96 Ave.* — Little Flower open stage 8 - 11 pm, hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: 429-3624 or www.littleflower.ca.
ROYAL CANADIAN BRANCH *10220-156 St.* — Open stage jam, 9 pm w/ The Dino Dominelli Hot Fire.
THE LOCKER ROOM *10209-100 Ave.* — Open Stage for comedians & musicians.
THE NEW TAPHOUSE *9020 McKinney Ave., St. Albert, 458-0860* — **Jam session** 9 pm, hosted by Danny Floyd.

KARAOKE

ALBERT'S *9308-34 Ave.* — **Tue,** 9 pm, Prosound Productions.
B-STREET BAR *11818-111 Ave., 414-0545* — **Wed - Sun** w/ Brad Scott
BILLY BOB'S LOUNGE *Continental Inn, 16625 Stony Pl. Rd., 484-7751* — **Thu-Sat,** Karaoke w/ Ed & Tora
BLIND PIG *32 St. Anne St., St. Albert 418-6332* — Karaoke every **Wed, Thu & Fri.**
BLUE QUILL *326 Saddleback Rd., 434-3124* — Fri & Sat
BO-DIDDLY'S PUB & GRILL *4274-137 Ave., 476-1918 or 377-0219* — **Thu** w/ Mr. Entertainment
BO-DIDDLY'S PUB & GRILL SOUTH *23 Ave. & 66 St. Millwoods Centre* — **Thu**, 9:30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
BORDERLINE PUB *3226-82 St., 462-1888* — **Thu - Sat**, 9:30 pm – 1:30 am.
BOSTON PIZZA BEVERLY *3303-118 Ave.* — **Sat**, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.
BOSTON PIZZA NAIT *10115 Princess Elizabeth Ave* — **Wed**, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
BROTHERS PUB *101100 Granada Blvd. Shwd Park* — **Sun**, 9:30 pm – 1:30 am.
BUD'S LOUNGE *Capilano Mall, 98 Ave. & 50 St.* — **Fri & Sat**, 9 pm – 1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
BUD'S LOUNGE *Londonderry 66 St. & 137 Ave.* — **Fri**, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
CASSELWOOD PUB *14620-50 St., 473-1010* — **Wed**, 9:30 pm – 1:30 am.
CASTLEDOWN'S PUB *16753-100 St.* — **Tue**, 9 pm – 1 am, w/ Off-Key Entertainment.
CHATEAU ON THE HILL *Beaumont* — **Fri**, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
CHICAGO JOE'S *9604-111 Ave. 479-4040* — Fri w/ Spoonz n' Toonz.
CHIMMY'S *8318-144 Ave., 478-1770* — **Thu** & Fri 9 pm w/ Wild Kenny
CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY PUB *37 Millbourne Rd.* — **Tue**, 9 pm, w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions
CLAREVIEW PUB *104, 550 Clareview Rd., 414…* — **Tue**, 10 pm - 2 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
CLIFF CLAYVIN'S *9710-105 St., 424-1614* — Fri & **Sat**, 10 pm – 2 am.
CLIFF'S PUB & PARTY *175 St. & 88 Ave.* — **Sat & Sun** w/ Spoonz & Toonz Entertainment.

OWN & ANCHOR 15277-113 St. — Thu, 9 pm w/ Shaun Donaldson.
C'S LOUNGE 15203 Stony Plain Rd., 486-1100 Wed, Fri & Sat, 9:30 – 1:30 am
YLE'S PUB 2619-151 Ave., 473-1961 — Fri & Sat, 9:30 pm.
O PUB 9605-66 Ave. — Mon, 9 pm w/ ...a/Prosound Productions
PUB 10125-109 St. 990-0680 — Tue, 9 pm ...ink specials all night.
ANCO'S 14059 Victoria Tr., 478-4636 — Thu - Sat, Debra-Fae's karaoke 9 pm.
ANKLIN'S PARK LOUNGE 2016 Sherwood Dr Shwd Park — Fri & Sat, 10 pm – 2 am.
NKY BUDDHA 10341-82 Ave. — Sun, 9:30 pm, w/ Mr. Entertainment.
S PUMP 10166-114 St. 488-4841 — Tue & Wed, 7 pm - 2 am, w/ Gord's Live Jukebox.
O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE 10044-82 Ave., 433-5794 — Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun.
WKEYE'S TOO 10044-102 St. 101-2324 — Fri, 8 pm - 12 am, w/ Deb Thulin - Hot Karaoke Prod.
VIEW PUB 311 Woodvale Rd. W., Millwoods, 462-0468 — Fri, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.
LIDAY INN 4520-76 Ave. — Thu, 8:30 pm, ... Prosound Productions
RSHU LOUNGE 137 Ave. & 58 St. — Mon & Sat, 10 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment.
GLEWOOD PUB 12402-118 Ave., 451-1390 — Thu – Sat, 9:30 pm - 2 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
'S POLAR PUB 6825-83 St., 413-1883 — Thu & Fri 9 pm.
GS PUB 7450-82 Ave., 465-4046 — Sat, 9 pm
LLY'S 11540 Jasper Ave., 451-8825 — Sun & Wed
GSKNIGHT PUB 9221-34 Ave., 433-2599 — Thu, Smirking Jay 9 pm
IGHTS PUB 11860-145 Ave. — Tue, Thu - Sat w/ Mr. Entertainment.
IGHTS PUB SOUTH 1919-105 St., 461-0587 — Fri & Sat, 10 pm - 2 am w/ Gord's Live Jukebox.
OSMOS 5011-50 Ave., Leduc, 986-3122 — Wed & Sat, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.
L'S PUB 23 Akins Dr., St. Albert, 460-9100 — Tue w/ the Karaokenuts & Thu w/ Hot Tunes, 9:30 pm - 1 am.
PERLE BAR & GRILL 9746 182 St., 930-1123 — Wed Spoonz N Toonz.
GLOBE 149 St. & Stony Plain Rd., 489-1022 — Mon – Thu & Sat, 9 pm.
GENDS PUB #105, 6104-172 St., 481-2786 — Wed, 9 pm
CKER ROOM 10209-100 Ave., 428-6442 — Mon - Fri.
AZADAR 10725-104 Ave. — Fri, 5 pm, w/ Chris Info. 429-4940
ETRO BILLIARDS 10250-106 St., 990-0704 — Tue, 10 pm – 2 am w/ Lounge Lizard Ent.
CHAEL'S 11730 Jasper Ave., 482-4767 — Mon, w/ Mr. Entertainment.
TON'S CAFÉ & BAR 10235-124 St., 451-8188 — Fri, Sat, Starts at 4 pm.
JO'S Fort Sask. Best Western Hotel 10115-88 Ave. Fri, 9:30 pm w/Sonia/Prosound Productions.
NA USA PUB 9606-1180 Ave., 477-7752 — Every Wed, 9 pm-1 am, hosted by Cathy, Sat w/ Jason
UGGN'Z PUB 6655-178 St. — Wed & Sat
WCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6108-90 Ave., 490-1999 — Thu, 9 pm, w/ Devon Lane & Brittany.
KKI DIAMONDS 8130 Gateway Blvd. — Mon, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Gord from Stone Rock Entertainment.
CONNORS IRISH PUB 9013-88 Ave., 469-8165 — Thu, 9 pm - 1 am.
ON THE ROCKS 11740 Jasper Ave., 482-4767 — Mon, 9:30 pm, Drink the Bar Dry Karaoke w/ Scott Parsons & Mr. Entertainment

ORLANDO'S I 15163-121 St 457-1195 — Every Wed, Thu & Sun, 9 30 pm-2 am
ORLANDO'S II 13509-127 St., 451-7799 — Tue & Wed, 9 pm 1 30 am w/ Mr Entertainment.
ORLANDO'S III 6104-104 St — Mon, 9 pm 1 am w/ Off-Key Entertainment
OVERLAND LOUNGE 12960 St Albert Tr. — Fri 9 pm - 1 am Sat 9 pm - 1 am w/ Off-Key
PARKLAND PUB 30-53222 RR 272, Spruce Grove 960-6871 — Every Sat, 9 pm - 1 am, starting Sep 17, Karaoke contest 1st prize $600
PEPPERS 320 Westmount Centre, 113 Ave. & 135 St 451-8022 — Thu, 9:30 pm - 1.30 pm w/ Gord from Stone Rock Entertainment
PLAYBACK PUB 594 Hermitage Rd 475-2309 — Thu 9 pm hosted by Cathy, cash prizes
RATTLESNAKE SALOON 9261-34 Ave, 438-8878 — Tue - Sat, karaoke corral, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL 11715-108 Ave., 447-4727 — 7 days a week, 9 pm.
ROSE BOWL PIZZA 10111-117 St., 482-5152 or 482-2589 — Wed & Sat
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL 10315-124 St, 482-1600 - Wed Sat, 9 30 pm hosted by Ron Burgess
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL 10475-80 Ave., 439-7211 — Thu – Sat, 9 30 pm – 1.30 am
ROSIE'S BAR 63 Ave. & 99 St. — Thu – Sat, 9 pm w/ Off-key
ROSIE'S LOUNGE 10604-101 St, 423-3499 — Mon 9 pm: Triveoke Tue – Sat, 9 pm Karaoke
SAK'S ON 51 ST 10525-51 Ave — Fri & Sat
SANDS HOTEL 12340 Ft Rd — Fri. 9 am w/ Mr Entertainment
SCHOLARS Quad 13 11113-87 Ave. — Sun & Tue 9:30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
SHERLOCK HOLMES Bourbon Street, WEM — Sun, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
SILVER BULLET 4703-97 St., 437-6203 — Every Tue, karaoke contest
SILVER MARTINI 10668-156 St, 484-9753 — Thu & Sat, 9 pm w/ Prosound Productions
SMITTY'S Northgate Mall, South side entrance — Sat 9 pm 478-7731
SMITTY'S WESTMOUNT Groat Rd & 111 Ave. — Thu, 9.30 pm - 1 am
SMOK'N JOES ROADHOUSE 615 Hermitage Rd 476-6122 — Wed w/ Rockin Kenny
SPIKES RESTAURANT & LOUNGE 99 St & 32 Ave 430 3663 — Fri & Sat w/ TLC entertainment
SPORTSMANS LOUNGE 145 8107-50 St — Thu 9 pm – 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainme...
SPORTSWORLD INLINE & ROLLER SKATING DISCO 13710-104 St, 472-6336 — Tue. Fri & Sat 7 pm - 12 am Sat & Sun, 1 pm - 5 pm
STRATHERN PUB 9514-87 St, 465-5478 — Wed & ...
THE DRUID 11606 Jasper Ave — Wed, 9.30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
THE DRUID SOUTH 2945 Calgary Trail South — Wed, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
THE FRAT 10320-102 Ave 428-3733 — Every Tue, 9 pm w/ Peter from Mr. Entertainment
THE NEST NAIT Main Campus — Every Wed 4.30 pm - 8 pm.
THE NEW TAPHOUSE 9020 McKinney Ave., St Albert, 458-0860 — Tue hosted by Jay & Mr Entertainment
THORSBY HOTEL Thorsby, AB — Sat 9:30 pm- 1.30 am w/ Sonia/Prosound
THYME TO DINE 15505-118 Ave. — Fri & Sat, 9 pm - 1 am
TODAY'S PUB 5224-86 St — Fri & Sat, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Big Time Entertainment
WINSTON'S PUB 9016-132 Ave. — Wed, Fri & Sat. 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
WOODY'S 11725B Jasper Ave (Upstairs) 488-6636 — Sat & Mon w/ Tizzy, Sun & Tue w/ Patrick
X-WRECKS 10143-50 St. — Wed 7 30 pm- 11:30 pm w/ Sonia/Prosound
YESTERDAY'S Boudreau Rd St Albert, 459-0295 Thu, 9 30 pm - 2 am w/ Off-Key Entertainment

EXHIBITS

AGNES BUGERA GALLERY 12310 Jasper Ave, 482 2854 — Until Dec 31 Works by Ernestine Tahedl, Ian Rawlinson, Mandy Boursicot, Grant McConnell, Stuart Slind, Gillian Lindsay, Michael Den Hertog & others Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm Info: www.agnesbugeragallery.com
ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL 455 King St., Spruce Grove — Info 962-0664
ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL 10186-106 St 488-6611 ext 221
ART BEAT GALLERY 26 St Anne St, St Albert, 459-3679 — Hours: Tue, Wed & Fri, 10 am - 6 pm, Thu, 10 am - 8 pm, Sat, 10 am - 5 pm. Info www.artbeat.ab.ca
ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 422-6223 — Until Feb 19: Far & Wide Alberta Landscapes, by David Alexander & John Hartman; ISUMA: To Have an Idea, a survey exhibition of films produced by Igoolik Isuma Productions, Canada's first independent Inuit production company, Ashoona. Third Wave, new drawings by Shuvinai Ashoona, Siassie Kenneally & Annie Pootoogook, all descendants of the famed Cape Dorset artist Pitseolak Ashoona, Three Travellers, works of Edmonton artists Scott Berry Louis O'Coffey & Leo Wong. In the Children's Gallery: Alphabet Soup, an interactive space for children to explore different methods of drawing featuring works by Lorna Bennett. Info www.art-galleryalberta.com
ART MODE GALLERY 12220 Jasper Ave. — Open Tue - Sun Info www.artmode.com
ARTISTIC STATEMENT SCHOOL OF FINE ART Grey Nuns Out-Patient Room, 3015-62 St — Until Feb 28, a collection of art by students of Alanna Marie, ages 6 to senior Hours: Mon – Fri, 8.30 am – 4 pm
ARTS HAB STUDIO GALLERY 3rd fl., 10217-106 St 439-9532 — Until Dec 28, Tangled Reflections, paintings and drawings by artists of the Coloured Web School of Art, and new works by ArtsHab residents Open Every Thu, 5 pm – 8 pm. Info www.artsHab.com
ARTS & SCIENCE BY MARCE & MARCE — Featuring dimensional paintings by Brenda Marce. By appointment, 435-5838
BANYAN TREE GALLERY 10336-107 St, 425-2727 - Featuring contemporary South Asian artworks, furniture, jewelry and more. Info info@banyantreegallery.ca.
BEARCLAW GALLERY 10403-124 St. — Until Dec 31 Holiday exhibition of new works by gallery artists, featuring wood carvings, mixed media, masks soapstone & sculpture. Info 482-1204
BOHEMIA CYBER CAFÉ 11012 Jasper Ave. — Info. www.bohemiacafe.ca/about.html
... 10434-122 St — Hours Mon - Fri 8 am 5 ...
CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA 9103 ... Ave. — Closed Dec 23 Jan 8 Jan 8-Feb 7 group show featuring a selection of works among the 140 contributing gallery artists Info: 461 3427
CHRISTL BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY 9621-82 Ave — View the web site at www.redgallery.ca Hours Mon - Fri, 11 am 5 pm, Sat by appointment 439-8210
CLAYWORKS STUDIO LINK 10125-81 Ave 433-8866 — Info 433-8866 after 1 pm
COLLECTIV CONTEMPORARY ART 6507 112 Ave 491-0002 — Info: www.collectiv.ca
CRAFTMAN'S COVE Westmount Shopping Centre 454-2656 — Tole Painting and Victorian Music Boxes by Bev Runolfson
DESTINA GALLERY 10727-124 St, 488-8720 — Hours Wed - Sat, 11 am - 5 pm
DISCOVERY GALLERY 10186-106 St, main floor — Hours Mon - Sat, 10 am - 5:00 pm
DOUGLAS UDELL GALLERY 10332-124 St — Hours Tue-Fri, 9 30 am – 5:30 pm Info 488-4445
ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO 12419 Stony Plain Rd., 482 1402
ERIC'S GALLERY #414 Southgate Centre — Info: www.vertigo...
EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY 2nd Fl., U of A Extension Centre, 8303 112 St — Until Jan 10 Those Among Us, realist & encaustic paintings by Izabella Orzelski-Konikowski & Bogdan Koral-Konikowski Hours Mon-Thu 8 30 am-8 pm Fri

Red Deer College... growing, learning, living our values

Red Deer College is currently accepting applications for:

Graphic Design Specialist

Full-Time

Working effectively within the Marketing and Communications Department, you will guide and assist internal clients in meeting their student recruitment marketing goals. You will provide graphic design expertise and advanced creative skills to ensure that professional quality is maintained in marketing projects such as: advertisements, program brochures, booklets, posters, programs, invitations, newsletters, recruitment publications, marketing campaigns and displays; complete visual design and ongoing graphics maintenance/updating of Red Deer College website.

Applications must be received before noon on January 5, 2007.

Further details on the above position and other positions at Red Deer College are available on our website at www.rdc.ab.ca

RDC Red Deer College

Year of living DVD-ly

Best of 2006 on disc

HD DVD AND BLU-RAY, THE WARRING new high-def DVD products, made a lot of noise in 2006, with ambitious release schedules. Video connoisseurs generally have preferred the higher digital-content capacity of the latter; the battle for format supremacy is yet to be won.

But the special DVD packages, with the exception of *Mission: Impossible: Ultimate Editions Set* (Paramount, $99.99) and a few others were largely released in the standard DVD format.

Herewith, a few of the year's best DVD boxed sets, perfect for the movie junkies:

Fantasy film classic *The Chronicles of Narnia* receives the new-and-expanded treatment with the "Four-Disc Extended Edition" (Disney, $42.99), centered on a spruced-up version of the 2005 theatrical release. The new cut features additional and extended scenes, and enhanced special effects. The set also includes a new documentary on C.S. Lewis, the theologian and author who wrote *Narnia*, reflections from the cast and crew, and new behind-the-scenes features.

Fans of contemporary Italian cinema will gravitate to *Cinema Paradiso: Limited Collector's Edition* (Weinstein, $39.99), a lavishly packaged two-DVD, one-CD edition of the Oscar winner directed by Giuseppe Tornatore. Both the original theatrical release and the 2002 director's cut are included. Extras: commentary with Tornatore and Italian film expert Millicent Marcus, two new documentaries, postcard- sized reproductions of the poster and lobby cards, and more.

Bond newbie Daniel Craig has been getting all the ink lately, but interest in vintage Bond flicks remains high, as evidenced by the success of the five-movie *James Bond Ultimate Editions* sets (MGM, $89.98 each). Vol. 1 (*Diamonds Are Forever, Goldfinger, The Living Daylights, The Man With The Golden Gun, The World Is Not Enough*) and Vol. 2 (*Die Another Day, License To Kill, The Spy Who Loved Me, Thunderball, A View To A Kill*) came first. Slated for release Dec 12 are Vol. 3 (*Goldeneye, Live And Let Die, For Your Eyes Only, From Russia With Love, On Her Majesty's Secret Service*) and Vol. 4 (*Dr. No, You Only Live Twice, Octopussy, Tomorrow Never Dies, Moonraker*). Transparent marketing strategy: the better Bond flicks are mixed with the turkeys.

Pandora's Box, the classic 1929 drama directed by German master G.W. Pabst and starring Jazz Age luminary Louise Brooks, is now available in a two-disc "Criterion Collection" edition ($39.95). As per usual with Criterion, this package is loaded with goodies, including four musical scores, commentary by two film scholars, a rare 1971 interview with Brooks, an hour-long 1998 documentary, and a book of essays.

A master of romantic comedy offers lessons on his rare art in *The Cary Grant Box Set* (Sony, $49.95), with five films including Howard Hawks' 1940 *His Girl Friday*, George Cukor's 1938 *Holiday* (with Katherine Hepburn) and Hawks' 1939 adventure film *Only Angels Have Wings*.

Art-house enthusiasts will beg for, or save up for, *Essential Art House – 50 Years of Janus Film* (Criterion, $850), a bona-fide juggernaut of a set with *M, Jules and Jim, The Seventh Seal, The 39 Sets*, and 46 other movies. The movies are contained in one volume, and the second is a 200-page hardback book with numerous essays by filmmaker Martin Scorsese, film historian Peter Cowie, and others. The selection runs from 1938's *Alexander Nevsky* to 1957's *Wild Strawberries*, directed by Ingmar Bergman, and the package includes three documentaries. The individual discs, though, do not include extra features.

Jazz Icons (TDK, $159.99) is the jazz DVD box of the year, with nine discs centered on terrific performances by Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Chet Baker, Art Blakey, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Quincy Jones, Thelonious Monk, and Buddy Rich, caught live between 1958 and 1979.

Also sure to appeal to jazz fans are *Legends of Jazz with Ramsey Lewis* ($199.98, LRS Media), a four-DVD, two-CD, 230-page book set documenting all 12 episodes of the television series of the same name. Guests include Dave Brubeck, Clark Terry, Chick Corea, Keb' Mo', Chris Potter, Eddie Palmieri, and many others.

Vintage crime-film collections are springing up everywhere, and one of the best is *Film Noir Collection, Vol. 3* (Warner, $49.98), a six- disc set featuring *Lady in the Lake* (1946), *Border Incident* (1949), *His Kind of Woman* (1951), *The Racket* (1951), *On Dangerous Ground* (1952), each of which comes with a commentary by various film scholars. Also included is a bonus disc with a noir documentary and several vintage shorts.

The best of Capra-corn, with the exception of the not-included *It's a Wonderful Life* is on display in *The Premiere Frank Capra Collection* (Sony, $59.95), with *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, It Happened One Night, You Can't Take It With You, Mr. Deeds Goes to Town, American Madness*, and the documentary *Frank Capra's American Dream*.

Among the other notable DVD sets are *Marilyn Monroe Special Collection, Saturday Night Live: The Complete First Season, The Busby Berkeley Collection, The Fassbinder Collection, M*A*S*H Martinis and Medicine Complete Collection, The Paul Newman Collection, Seinfeld – Season 7, The Marlon Brando Collection, The Office – Season 2, 24 – Season 5, Curb Your Enthusiasm – The Complete Fifth Season, Superman Ultimate Collector's Edition, Eric Rohmer's Six Moral Tales, John Wayne - John Ford Film Collection*, and *Mission Impossible: Ultimate Missions Collection*.

PHILIP BOOTH
From Featurewell.com
Philip Booth writes about music and film for The St. Petersburg Times

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8:30 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9 am-12 noon. Info: www.extension.ualberta.ca

FAB GALLERY *1-1 Fine Arts Building, U of A Campus* — Hours: Tues - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm; Sat, 2 - 5 pm.

FORT DOOR *10308-81 Ave., 432-7535* — Hours Mon - Wed, 10 am - 6 pm; Thu & Fri, 10 am - 9 pm; Sat, 10 am - 6 pm; Sun, 12 - 5 pm.

FRAME OF MIND *6150-90 Ave* — Hours: 10-6, closed Sun

FRINGE GALLERY *10516 Whyte Ave. 432-0240* — **Throughout Dec** Digital images by Ansgard Thompson **Jan** Cynthia Gardiner solo show

FRONT GALLERY *12312 Jasper Ave., 488-2952* — Hours. Tues - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm.

GALLERIA OF CRAFTERS & ARTISANS *1082 Capilano Mall* — Local art in various media Open 7 days a week

THIS WEEK
420-1757 www.dxonthesquare.ca
TIX ON THE SQUARE

New Years Eve with Mad Bomber Society
Starlite Room
Dec 31

New Year's Eve with The Superband
Sidetrack Cafe
Dec 31

7th Annual Latin New Year's Eve
MBM Sound
Dec 31

The Best is Yet to Come... Jazzy New Year's
Fancy Toez
Dec 31

New Year's Eve Ball 2007
C3 Metro
Dec 31

Trocadero New Year's Eve
Trocadero Orchestra
Dec 31

Mid-Winter Songs
Ensemble de la Rue
Dec 31

TICKETMASTER
Edmonton Arts Council
9930 - 102 Avenue

GALLERY AT MILNER *Stanley Milner Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square* — Hours: Mon - Fri, 9 am - 9 pm, Sat, 9 am - 6 pm, Sun, 1 pm - 5 pm

GLASS HAPPENINGS *17324-106A Ave.* — Info: 484-8388

HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY *3rd floor, 10215-112 St., 426-4180* — Info: www.harcourthouse.ab.ca

HUMAN ECOLOGY GALLERY *U of A, 89 Ave & 116 St.* — Hours: Mon - Fri, 7 am - 9 pm, Sat, 8 pm - 4 pm, Sun, 12 pm - 4 pm

JEFF ALLEN GALLERY *Strathcona Seniors Centre, 10831 University Ave. 433-5807* — **Until Jan 4** Christmas Show and Sale, featuring several of the artists exhibited at the Jeff Allen Gallery throughout 2006 **Jan 9-Feb 1** *Vibrant Art* by Paul Martel

JOHNSON GALLERY *7711-85 St.* — Edmonton Oil Painters, artists working in-studio Info: susanab-[illegible]

KAMENA GALLERY & FRAMES *5718-104 St. 944-9497* — Photography by Wei Wong, Chinese calligraphy on rice paper of many colours by Willie Wong, prints from *Celebrating Women* by Larissa Sembaliuk Cheladyn, Northern Light & floral watercolour by Willie Wong. Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 6 pm, Thu 10 am - 8 pm, Sat 10 am - 5 pm.

LANDO GALLERY *11130-105 Ave., 990-1161* — Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 5:30 pm & Sat, 10 am - 4:30 pm, Sun by appointment. Visit www.landogallery.com for info.

LATITUDE 53 *10248-106 St., 423-5353* — Info www.latitude53.org

LITTLE CHURCH GALLERY *455 King St. Spruce Grove* — Info. 962-0664.

LOFT GALLERY *AJ Ottewell Arts Centre, 590 Broadmoor Blvd., Sherwood Pk. 449-4443* — Artist-run gallery through the Strathcona Art Society. Frequent rotation of artist's work, also offering mixed art classes including watercolour, oil, acrylic & photography techniques. Open Saturdays 10 am -5 pm.

MCMULLEN GALLERY *8440-112 St., 407-7152* — **Until Jan 14** *Alberta/Within Limits*, a dual exhibition of photographic and ceramic works by the Monochrome Guild And Sask Terra Group. Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 8 pm; Sat & Sun, 1 - 8 pm. Admission: Free

MINISTIK POTTERY & SCULPTURE STUDIO *37-51049, RR 214, Sherwood Park, 662-4160* — Horst Doll's sculptures. Info: www.horst-sculpture.ca.

MODERN EYES GALLERY & GIFT *Downtown (in the same building as Ric's Grill) St Albert, 459-9102* — Carrying works by painters Graham Flatt, Ian Sheldon Georgia Graham Lorraine Oberg sculptures by Roy Leadbeater Delayne Corbett and Fred Oberg; Maggie Walt Jewelry; Antique furniture, Kitras glass, Mogador, Sealed with a Kiss 10% off. Open edition framed prints up to 40% off. Hours. Tues - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm.

MULTICULTURAL PUBLIC ART GALLERY *5411-51 St., Stony Plain* – Until **Jan 14** Thinking Outside the Pot, ceramics exhibition. In the Dining Room Gallery: paintings by Lorraine Bready. Hours: Daily, 10 am - 4 pm, Sun 10 am - 6:30 pm. Info: 963-2777.

MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM *5 St. Anne St., St. Albert, 459-1528* — Hours: Mon - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm; & Sun, 1 - 5 pm. Admission: Suggested donation of [illegible]

MUTTART CONSERVATORY *9626-96A St.* — Info: 496-8787.

NAKED CYBER CAFÉ *10354 Jasper Ave.* — Info. 425-9730

NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE *9702-111 Ave., 474-7611* — The centre closes early for three weeks during the holiday season. Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 2:30 pm, Tue & Thu 6 pm – 8 pm. Info: www.ninahaggertyart.ca.

ORTONA GALLERY *9722-102 St., 439-6943* — Hours. Sat & Sun, 12 - 5 pm.

PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY *10183-112 St.* — **Until Jan 14** Frances Thomas' lush colour abstractions on mylar & Robert Wiseman's quirky fanatastical landscapes. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am – 5;30 pm, Thu 10 am – 8 pm.

PICTURE THIS *959 Ordze Rd., Sherwood Park on Wye Road* — Info: 467-3038.

PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY *19 Perron St., St. Albert, 460-4310* — Until **Dec 30** Presence art show & sale.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA *8555 Roper Rd., 427-1750* — **Until Jan 25** *A Joyful Harvest*, saluting 100 people, places and organizations that have defined Jewish life in southern Alberta since 1889. Hours: Tues – Sat 9 am- 4:30 pm, Wed 9 am - 9 pm.

RED DEER ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY *4930 Ross St., Red Deer 403-341-4641* —

RED STRAP MARKET *10305-97 St., 497-2211* — **Until Dec 31** Renny Hart presents *The Blackboard Jungle*, a show & sale of new works featuring some of the most unusual & rare members of the animal kingdom. Hours: Tue - Sun, 11 am - 5 pm.

ROWLES & COMPANY *10130-103 St., 426-4035* — Featuring over 100 Western Canadian artists in oil, acrylic, water-colour painting, bronze blown glass, metal, moose antler carving & soapstone Westin: acrylics by Kathryn Sherman. Scotia Place: water colours & acrylics by Frances Alty-arscott. Sun Life Place: oils by George Schwindt & acrylics by Bi Y Cheng. Hours: Weekdays, 9 am - 5 pm Sat, Noon 5 pm Info www.rowles.ab.ca

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM *12845-102 Ave., 453-9100* — **Until Jan 1** *Models of historical Edmonton*, the Northern Alberta Lego Users Groups showcase 11 models of historic Edmonton structures, including the High Level Bridge, the Msiencordia Hospital, a grain elevator and a train display **Until Jan 18** Allan King's *Timeless Beauty of Platinum Photography*.

RUTHERFORD SOUTH LIBRARY *U of A Campus* — Hours: Mon - Fri, 12 pm - 4:30 pm

SADDLERY GALLERY *10137-104 St., 423-4484* — Hours: Tue - Sat, 10 am - 7 pm.

SCOTT GALLERY *10411 - 124 St.* — Info: 488-3619 or www.scottgallery.com.

SEGHERS STUDIO GALLERY *9th Floor CN Tower, 425-6885* — Info: www.hungryartist.ca.

SELFRIDGE POTTERY STUDIO *9844-88 Ave. 439-9296* — Info: www.selfridgeceramicart.ca

SERENDIPITY GALLERY *9860-90 Ave., 433-0388* — New oils by Rhonda Harder-Epp, watercolours by Friedrich Pater R.C.A., ceramic masks by Maurice Lwambwa-Tshang, collages by Sylvia Grist and new ceramics by Debra Demers-Bryan.

SNAP GALLERY *Society of Northern Alberta Print Artists, 10309-97 St., 423-1492* — Hours: Tues - Sat, Noon - 5 pm. Info: snap@snapartists.com

SPECTRUM ART GALLERY *9418-91 St.* — Featuring 30 Western Canadian artists. Hours: Tue - Sat, 11 am - 9 pm.

STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY GALLERY *Sir Winston Churchill Square, 496-7063*

ST. ALBERT PAINTER'S GUILD *St. Albert Place, #5 St. Anne St.*

STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES *913 Ash St., Sherwood Park 476-8189* — Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am - 4 pm. Info: www.strathconacounty.museum.ca.

STUDIO GALLERY *11 Perron St., St. Albert, 460-5993* — **Until Dec 31** "Small Works" by Studio artists. Hours: Tues - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm; Sat, 10 am - 4 pm. By appointment: 460-5990

TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE *(AKA Edmonton's Space & Science Centre) 11211-142 St., 451-3344* — Permanent Exhibits: *The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Greens' House, Space Place, Discoveryland & DinoDen* in the Explorer Gallery. Syncrude Science Stage: Science Demos - Cryogenics, Electricity, What Puts The Fizz in Soda Pop? Info: 451-3344, www.odyssium.com.

TIFFANY'S DECOR *10135-82 Ave., 434-2414* — Feat. French art by Razzi, tile art tables, custom neon art, art by Richard Dixon. & vintage neon theatre signs. Hours: Tue - Sat, 12 pm - 5 pm.

TRANSALTA BARNS *10330-84 Ave.* — Hours: 11 am - 8 pm.

TU GALLERY *10718-124 St.* — Info: 452-9662 or www.tugallery.ca

URBAN ROOTS *10143-82 Ave.* — By appointment only. Info: 438-7978

VAAA GALLERY *Visual Arts Alberta Association 3rd Fl., 10215-112 St., 421-1731* — **Until** Dec 23 *Spectrum*, works by Lundy Dale, Pam Weber & Thaneah Krohn.

VISION IMAGES GALLERY *14224-Stony Plain Road* — Info: 414-0866.

WEST END GALLERY *12308 Jasper Ave.* — Info 488-[illegible].

WILDWOOD GALLERY *5410-50 St. Wildwood, 3[illegible]-3904* — Features an eclectic collection of unique original works in metal, wood & clay. Hours. 11 am - 5 pm daily.

WORKS GALLERY *10155 Jasper Ave., Main Floor* — Info. 426-2122 or www.theworks.ab.ca

ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY & SERENDIPITY FRAMING *9860-90 Ave., 433-0388* — Anahuacalli Mexican jewellery & art works by Canadian and Mexican artists and artisans. Hours: Tues & Wed, 10 am - 6 pm; Thu & Fri, 10 am - 8 pm, Sat Noon - 8 pm; Sun & Mon, Noon - 5 pm

MUSEUMS

ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM *11410 Kingsway Ave., 451-1175* — Edmonton bush pilot display in WWII-era double-wide, double-long hangar Hours: Daily, 10 am - 4 pm.

CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES *10440-108 Ave 496-8710* — More than 50,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present. Two display galleries. Free admission. Hours Weekdays, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

JOHN WALTER MUSEUM *10661-91A Ave., 496-8787* — Admission is free, donations gladly accepted Info: www.edmonton.ca/johnwalter

LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM *118, Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, 10440 108 Ave* — Current exhibition *The Battle of Ortona, Dec 1943* Displaying artifacts, photographs, documents, and texts on one of Canada's most important battles of World War II. Hours: Weekdays, 10 am - 4 pm

MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM *5 St. Anne St., St Albert, 459-1528* — Hours: Mon - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm, & Sun, 1 - 5 pm. Admission: Suggested donation of $2. Info and registration: 459-1528

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM *12845-102 Ave., 453-9100* — **Permanent Exhibitions**: *Wild Alberta* explores Alberta's natural habitat. *The Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture* traces the extraordinary history of Alberta's Aboriginal peoples from

[illegible] end of the Ice Age to the present day. *The [illegible]tural History Gallery* explores some of the extra[illegible]nary changes the Alberta region has experi[illegible]nced, and how these changes were written in the rocks. Info: 459-9100. Hours: Mon - Sun, 9 am - 5 pm. Ticket prices & Info: [illegible] RoyalAlbertaMuseum.ca
[illegible]PHONE MUSEUM *Prince of Wales Armouries [illegible]age Centre 10444-108 Ave., 433-1010* — [illegible]ours: Tue – Fri, 10 am – 3 pm. Admission by [illegible]ation

MEETINGS

[illegible]D SUPPORT *Glenrose Hospital, 10230-111 Ave* — **Every first & third Tue,** ADA/CH.A.D.D. hosts [illegible]n adult support meeting for attention disorders [illegible] 406-5212.
[illegible]ERTA ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION *The [illegible]aculty Club, 11435 Sask Dr.* — **Every third Tue,** [illegible]30 pm - 9 pm. Pre-register at **www.aea.ab.ca**
[illegible]SINESS & BEYOND TOASTMASTERS CLUB *U of A, [illegible]S 89* — **Every Mon,** 6:30 pm. Practice and [illegible]nce your communication, leadership & public speaking. Info: 492-0910 or **www.bbtc.ca**
[illegible]MBER TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Every Thu, 6 [illegible] Visit and learn how to deliver effective presen[illegible]ns, conduct business meetings, and develop as [illegible]mmunicator and leader. Info. 459-5206
[illegible]ISTOPHER LEADERSHIP COURSE — Non profit [illegible]zation that offers effective public speaking courses. Deal with nervousness, develop effective speaking skills, and explore leadership potential [illegible] 468-6498
[illegible]RNERSTONE COUNSELLING CENTRE — OASIS for Offering Anonymous and Safe Informative Support, is a group program for people who live with someone, or are close friends with someone, [illegible]o suffers from severe depression or mental illness. Info: **www.cornerstonecounselling.com**
[illegible]NKPOTS *Crankpots ceramic studio, 10702-82 Ave* — **Free "Happy Hour"** painting workshops **Mon - Thu,** 10 am - 2 pm. Info: 414-1005
[illegible]S WORKSHOPS *Catholic Social Services offices* — [illegible]ll 420-6081 for info & registration
[illegible]E EDMONTON NATURE CLUB — Monthly meetings at the *Royal Alberta Museum, 12845-102 Ave* Next session **Jan 19,** 7 pm. Info: ebc.fanweb.ca or [illegible] royalalbertamuseum.ca.
[illegible]TERPRISERS' FORUM TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Meets **Mondays** (Tuesdays after long weekends), 12 noon at the *Royal Glenora Club*. Try us out - delicious buffet lunch, supportive and fun-filled environment, learning communication and leader[illegible]ip skills. Info: 922-3835.
[illegible]THUSIASTIC SENIORS TOASTMASTERS *11113-113 St.* — **First & Third Tue** of each month, 1:30pm. Become an effective and relaxed speaker. Info: 405-6408.
[illegible]UITABLE CHILD MAINTENANCE & ACCESS SOCIETY *Seniors Lions Club, 11113-111 Ave.* — **Every second Mon,** 7 pm. Info: **www.ecmas.org**
[illegible]STLIFE SPEED DATING — Canada's most stylish speed dating & singles event service. Invitation only events take place in Edmonton every week. To attend an event, register online at **www.fastlife.ca**
[illegible]VA *Ortona Armoury, 9722-102 St., 429-1671* — **Every Mon,** 7 - 10 pm. Monday Night Club: screenwriters, directors & actors workshop a scene for camera. Call 429-1671 or visit FAVA.ca
[illegible]MAMAS MEET-UP GROUP — A group of young mothers and their babies meet several times a week for activities and attend events together. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: hipmama.meetup.com/151/.
[illegible]AGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB — 2nd & 4th Thu of the month, 8 pm *Allendale School 6415 – 106 St* Informative, entertaining presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, monthly and year-end competitions. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Visitors may attend 3x before joining. Membership: individual $40, Family (2+ at same address) $50, full-time students $20. For further [illegible] see www.imagesab.ca or call Sheila 469-[illegible]
[illegible]EE TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Every Tue, 7 pm. *[illegible]C Country Restaurant, 12707-140 Ave* Gain [illegible]fidence & hone your communication skills one-on-one or with groups. Info: **www.jubileetm.ca**
[illegible]ES COFFEE NIGHT — Every Wed, 7 pm. *Dairy Queen, Westmount Village.* Meeting to stop [illegible]ression & raise awareness of women's rights [illegible] 637-6613.
[illegible]RWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB *11150-82 St.* — **Every Thu,** 8-10 pm. Improve public speaking & communication skills. Info: 424-2707 or www.nor[illegible]toastmasters.org
[illegible]PORTUNITIES UNLIMITED NETWORKING GROUP *[illegible]monton Chamber of Commerce, #600, 10123-99 St* — **Every Fri,** 6:45 - 8:30 am: Develop new business relationships and hear keynote speaker Terry Scheiris. Admission: $2, everyone welcome. Info 426-4620.
[illegible]AM CANADA *University of Alberta, Tory 4-10* — **Every second Wed** of the month, 6:30 pm. Human rights based group that works on social [illegible] issues through education & advocacy. Info [illegible]@yahoo.ca.
[illegible]AGON TOASTMASTERS CLUB *Downtown* — **Every Thu,** noon - 1 pm. Improve your listening, [illegible]ng & speaking skills. Info: 427-0552 or 905-[illegible]
[illegible]WERSPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Every Wed 7 pm -9 pm. *MacEwan Centre for the Arts, [illegible]45-156 St Rm 437* Develop effective public speaking & communication skills in a fun, dynamic & supportive environment. Info: 483-0312
PURSUERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB — Every Wed, 7 pm. *Best Western – Cedar Park Inn, Calgary Trail & 51 Ave* Become more confident speaking to groups & individuals through our proven program. Info: **www.pursuers.org**
SCREENWRITERS CIRCLE *Fava Site* — **First Tue** of every month, 7:30 pm. Established & budding screenwriters discuss craft & share works-in progress [illegible]
SOS TOASTMASTERS *St A[illegible] Library,* **Jan 8,** 7:30 pm. Le[illegible] and leadership skil[illegible] environment. Info: 459 7475
SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE LIVING WITH THE MENTALLY ILL — *Cornerstone Counselling Centre 11111 Jasper Ave., 482-6215* [illegible] third Wed of each month, 7 pm
THE OUTSIDERS SUPPORT GROUP — Every Wed, 7 - 8:30 pm. A support group for families and friends of loved ones who are incarcerate[illegible] Providing emotional support, info and [illegible] share. Info: 471-1122
TOASTMASTERS CLUB *7103-105 St* — **Every Tue,** 7 pm. Speaking & leadership training. Info: 454 1915.
UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS *Rm 601, Norquest College, 10215-18 St.* — **Every Wed,** 7 pm. Improve your public speaking skills. Info: [illegible] 2613 www.ecn.ab.ca
WEST END TOASTMASTER CLUB "COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP" *[illegible] Rear Entrance, Main Floor Bo[illegible]* Every Tue 7 - 9 pm. Communication involve[illegible] giving appropriate feedback and [illegible] speaking. Join the friendly environment of personal progress and mutual support during two-hour weekly meetings. Info. 495-5424
YOUNG ADULTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP *Knox Metropolitan United Church, 8307 109 St.* — **Every third Thu** of the month the Edmonton Chapter of the MS Society is offering a support group for people [illegible] who have MS and their family & friends. Info: 471 3034

ACTIVISM

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL *Knox Metropolitan Church, 83 Ave entrance 8307 109 St.* — All are welcome. Info: 462-1871
ANARCHIST READING CIRCLE DISCUSSION GROUP *Fine Arts Building, lounge at bottom of stairway, U of A Campus, 114 St & 89 Ave.* — **Every Sun,** 4 pm. Meet for critical discussion of assigned anarchist readings, the theory and practice of anarchism and current international and local events. Current readings available at: **www.oxygen-smith.com/~arc.**
BIKE WORKS — Fix your own bike! Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' BikeWorks is entirely run by volunteers, fall hours are Wed 5 pm – 9 pm, and Sat 12 noon – 5 pm. Call ahead 433-2453. Full organization info at: **www.edmontonbikes.ca**
COUNCIL OF CANADIANS — Every third Wed of the month. An independent, public interest organization that works to promote economic justice, renew democracy and assert Canadian sovereignty. Info 429-4500
EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION — Every third Wed, 7 pm. ESPA is an activist arts organization with members from 32 countries. Always seeking socially conscious artists, and production volunteers. Info: 434-9236 or **contact@edmontonsmallpress.org**
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD — Second Thu of the month, *7 pm, Rm. 2-42, Humanities Building, U of A Campus.* Meetings are open to the public. Info: edmonton.iww.ca
MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION *Faculté Saint-Jean, 8406-91 St Room 3-18* — **Every third & fourth Sat** of the month, 9 am - 5 pm. An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women through programs on economy, community radio and community health. Offers training on HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and harm reduction in French, English and other African languages. Admission free for members, membership: $10. Call 490-7332 to register
PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE — Every Mon, 5 pm - 7 pm, *Education North 4-104, U of A Campus.* A youth group that promotes anti-racist & diversity workshops. Info: 425-4644 or **www.noarr.org**
SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA — Prairie Chapter works with, and is always seeking, ecologically and socially conscious individuals to build a strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info: www.sierraclub.ca/prairie
UNESCO COALITION FOR PEACE — Meets on the last **Fri** of every month, 3 pm. *Boyle McCauley Health Centre, 2nd Fl. Boardroom, 10628-96 St.* Info 922-5566.
UNIVERSITY COALITION AGAINST WAR & RACISM *Humanities Centre, Rm 1-7, U of A Campus* — **Every Thu,** 4:30 - 6 pm. A public interest group working in education & organizing invites concerned public to attend coalition meetings.
WOMEN IN BLACK *Strathcona Farmer's Market, 83 Ave. & 103 St.* — **First & third Sat** of every month, 10 - 11 am. An international women's peace and anti-racism group formed by Jewish & Arab women in 1988 opposes violence in all its forms. All women, men and children invited to attend a silent vigil. Info: 435-7051.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE — [illegible]
CLUB LULU [illegible] ou moving. Visit [illegible]63 or email [illegible] to register
CSS WORKSHOPS *[illegible]al Services offices* — Info: 420-6081
FAMILY CONSTELLATION — Every 2nd & 4th Wed, 7 pm. *10431-37 Ave* Feel burdened by life, family [illegible] u live your own [illegible]
GENTLE YOGA *Radha [illegible]* — [illegible]
HIV NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY *300-11456 Jasper Ave. 488-5742* — Hours: Mon Wed & Thu, 9 am - 5 pm, Tue 9 am - 7 pm & Fri 9 am - 4 pm
LIVING POSITIVE *Suite 404, 10408-124 St.* — **Every Tue.** 7 pm - 9 pm, A confidential space where POZ people can discuss & share common issues of concern. A peer-driven, AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living w/ HIV in Alberta. Info: 488 5768
LIVING WITH LOSS — Jan 3, 10 am *Northgate Lion's Centre 7524-139 Ave* & 6:30 pm, *Woodcroft Library, 13420-114 Ave.* An introductory presentation by the Edmonton Bereavement Centre on grieving and supporting those coping with loss. Info: Linda at 454-1231, ext. 224
MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION *Faculte Saint Jean, 8406-91 St., Room 3-18.* — **Every third & fourth Sat** of the month, 9 am - 5 pm. An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women through programs on economy, community radio and c[illegible]
MASSAGE THERAPY — Every Thu until Feb [illegible] public clinics. Relaxation massag[illegible] call CDI 463 7900
OPEN YOUR MIND! *11403-101 St* — Gaden Samten Ling Tibetan Buddhist Meditation [illegible]. Meditation and Buddhist teachin[illegible] teacher Tibetan Buddhist mo[illegible] Dhamchoe. Beginners **Tue** 7[illegible] **Wed,** 7pm. Advanced pract[illegible] Sun [illegible] 479-0014 www.gadensamtenli[illegible]
RAJA YOGA MEDITATION — *#208* [illegible] In association with the Brahma Ku[illegible] Spiritual Organization. For info on introductory classes or events go to www.bkwsu.org or call 425-1050
SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY *Strathcona Place Seniors Centre, 10831 University Ave.* — **2nd & 4th Tue** of every month, Dr. Joyce Krysowaty offers personal counseling, call 433-5807 to arrange consultations or appointments. **Every 2nd Wed** Dr. Krysowaty facilitates an Organization for Caregivers Support Group, 10 am-11:30 am
TRANQUILITY MEDITATION *10502 70 Ave* — **Every Wed 7 pm.** Meditation w/ Tibetan traditional female lama Ani Kunsang. Info: 633-6157
[illegible] GROUP *Knox Metropolitan United Church 8307 109 St* — **Every third Thu** of the month the Edmonton Chapter of the MS society is o[illegible] support group for people in their 2[illegible] have MS and their family & friends. In[illegible] 3034.

READINGS & LECTURES

10 DAYS OF MADNESS – PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL [illegible] 4[illegible]2-4215 or go to ww[illegible]
[illegible]ERS SING & TELL - **Jan 19,** 8 pm. *[illegible]s Barns, 1033 84 Av[illegible]* Blair Pa[illegible] Bentall [illegible] www.songwriters.ca
LUNCH BY THE BOOKS — *Stanley A[illegible] Sir Winston Churchill Square* A [illegible] d by the U of A's Facult[illegible] Arts & th[illegible] Library. Jan [illegible] [illegible] Smith discuss[illegible] War: The North American Mustard Ga[illegible] Experiments of WWII." Info: www.uofaweb.ual[illegible]
[illegible]

JONESIN' CROSSWORD by Matt Jones

Gee, You're Quiet

Prepare for the silent treatment

ACROSS
1 Startled silence
5 It gets you backstage
9 Styling stuff
12 Cookie that turns 100 in 2012
13 Oedipus's father (and murder victim)
14 Memorial Day weekend race, to fans
15 Guy whose job it is to rotate tiny bugs?
17 Kind of boots
18 Counting Crows frontman Adam
19 What a circle with a cross underneath symbolizes
20 Gasoline measurements
23 Eagle Butte and Charlevoix
25 Wisconsin wacko
26 The yellow one, in kid vid
27 It's between Norway and Pakistan in the U.N.
28 Dryer materials
29 It moves when blinking
32 Wagon wheel groove
33 Subject at Wildebeest Elementary School?
35 Bother
36 Sound from a leaking tire
37 Support for the arts?
38 Site of 1993 accords
39 Like crime dramas, often
41 Stiller role in two movies
43 Cure-all
45 Puts more water in the squirt gun
46 Refrain sung with barnyard noises
47 Fresh alternative
49 Leave off
50 The act of grinding your teeth while thinking about comedian Martin?
54 Branch home
55 Good looks sources
56 Andy Taylor's kid
57 Poll response
58 Very, in Verdun
59 Sommelier's choices

DOWN
1 Word after road or blanket
2 Cremains vessel
3 Black, White, or Andaman
4 "Sweeet!"
5 "1 Night in ___" (noted unauthorized sex video)
6 ___ It Cool News
7 Shipping shortcut
8 Borat's home country was once one: abbr
9 City of little magical creatures near the Arctic Circle?
10 Painter Degas
11 Movie reviewer Jeffrey
13 Enticing sort
14 "___ Man" (1993 rap hit by Positive K)
16 Get the guitar ready
19 "America's Most Wanted" host John
20 Junkyard emanations
21 "The Stranger" novelist
22 Geologist's explanation?
24 "Invasion of Your Privacy" glam-rock band
26 British sailor, in slang
28 Want bad
30 Let the motor run
31 Opportunities, in metaphor
33 Company with TV ads of irritated cavemen
34 G-Funk rapper ___ Dogg
38 Figure in a 1992 "SNL" controversy
40 Blues-rocker Bonnie
41 Hats with tassels: var
42 Couturier Cassini
43 Flower that's a traditional symbol of China
44 Singer/songwriter Mann
45 Wanders aimlessly
48 Russo of 2005's "Yours, Mine and Ours"
50 USMC rank
51 "___ Escape" (1999 PlayStation game)
52 Game designer Meier
53 "I'll Bet ___ Nice" (Beach Boys song)

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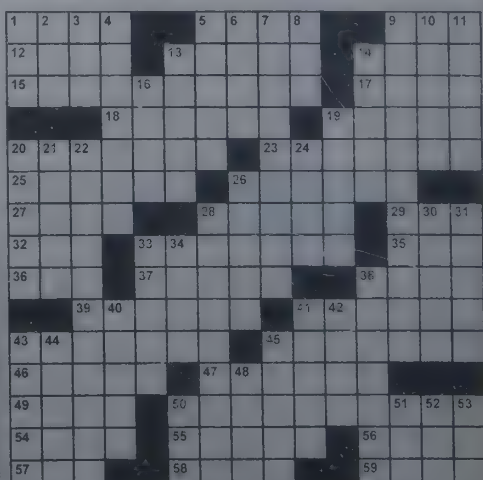
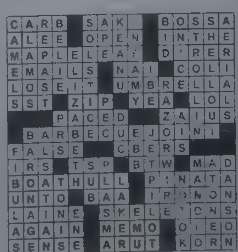


SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



DEC 31 — A Vaudevillian New Year's Eve Roxy Theatre, 10708-124 St. Tippy Agogo, Bill Bourne, Mile Zero Dance, Laurelle, Leo.FX & others. Tickets at TIX.

LONG HAVE WE GOT?" — **Jan 25**, 7:30 pm *Grant MacEwan College Gymnasium, Downtown campus.* Atwood will discuss the themes of science and nature that permeate her novel *Oryx and Crake*, voted MacEwan's College Book of the Year in 2006. Tickets $10, $7 students/alumni, available at all MacEwan bookstores or by phone, 497-5482

NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR *10354 Jasper Ave., 425-9730* — **Every Thu** open stage poetry readings.

[illegible] OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD READING CIRCLE — **Every Sat, 10 am,** *Stony Plain Library 112-4613-52 Ave., Stony Plain* Info: 963-5440

PHILOSOPHY CAFE — *Edmonton Room (basement), Stanley A. Milner Library, Sir Winston Churchill Square.* An ongoing series of Philosophy Cafes presented by University of Alberta academics. Info: Ben at 496-1822.

POET'S INK WRITING EVENINGS — *Castle Rock Pub, 570 St. Albert Rd.* Writing evenings every **Sun** except long weekends.

REVEREND D. KAYE *Turning Point 12840-109 Ave.* — **Every Sun**, 11 am. Seminar.

SUBALTERN VOICES LECTURE SERIES — The University of Alberta Political Science Department presents the 2006-07 speaker series, *Subaltern Voices. Speaking & Theorizing from the Disciplinary Margins. Room 10-4, Tory building, U of A Campus.* **Jan 25**, 3:30 pm. Dr. Uma Kothari discusses "Distinguishing Race: the Sanitization of Discourses of Development."

T.A.L.E.S. STORYTELLING CIRCLE — **Second Fri** of every month **Sep-Jun** *City Arts Centre, 10943-84 Ave.* Come to share stories or just to listen. Reconvenes **Jan 12**, 8 pm. First visit free, $3 to cover rent thereafter. "Story Café" **Jan 4**, *Rosie's Bar & Grill, 10475-80 Ave., w/* Marie Anne McLean, David Haas & Dawn Blue. Info: Jennie, 433-2932.

THE SECRET — **Sundays in Jan**, 11 am. *Life Enrichment Centre, 4936-87 St., 462-4491.* Dr Jaclyn Darby speaks each week on the science of belief, new thought, and the laws of attraction Admission by donation Info: www.life-enrichment.ca.

LEARNING

AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES — Movements. The Afro-Caribbean Dance Ensemble holds classes conveniently located on Jasper Ave. Info: 415-5211 or www.movementsdance.com

CUBAN SALSA LESSONS — **Every Tue**, 8 pm, *Funky Buddha 10341-82 Ave.*

DROP-IN ART CLASSES — *Profiles Public Art Gallery, 19 Perron St., St. Albert.* **Every 2nd Thu**, $10 per class, includes materials. Info on upcoming classes call Glenda at 460-4310 or email ohiglenda@telus.net

FAVA WORKSHOPS — FAVA offers a range of film-making workshops this fall, including documentary storytelling, documentary post-production & 16mm filmmaking basics. Details at www.fava.ca.

GERMAN FOR BEGINNERS — *Edmonton Seniors' Centre, 11111 Jasper Ave.* Classes Wed mornings at 9 am in January. Info: 482-8625

LATIN DANCE LESSONS — *On The Rocks, 11740 Jasper Ave.* "Salsa In The City" **every Thu,** Latin dance lesson at 9 pm. Info: www.salsaandthecity.com.

LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION — *#200, 10116-105 Ave.* The Learning Centre is looking for people to help adults develop their literacy & math skills. Volunteer & help others make positive changes for themselves and their communities. Info: Mary at 429-0675.

MARS HILL CENTRE — *88318-104 St., 435-0202* Offers classes and workshops on the recovery process, incorporating emotional, relational & spiritual dynamics. Registration is on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Full details at www.marshillcentre.com.

MEDIA MAG WORKSHOPS — *Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, 9702-111 Ave.* $150 per workshop Info: www.mediamag.ca

MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP — Build self-esteem and learn about women's resources in the community. For more information contact Marie Helene at the City of Edmonton, 496-5930.

YOGA CLASSES — **Mon & Thu** 5:45 pm, **Wed** 10 am. 7 week sessions $70 or drop-in $12/class Classes held in Sherwood Park. Info: 416-4244, or www.balanced-wellness.ca.

KIDS

ADVENTURE SUNDAYS *John Janzen Nature Centre, Fox Dr. & Whitemud Dr.* — **Every Sun**, 11 am – 4 pm. Join a naturalist and explore a new theme Each weekend features hands-on activites and projects for the whole family. Admission: $1.75 adults, $1..50 youth/seniors, $1.25 children. Info 496-8787 or www.edmonton.ca/johnjanzen

ARMY CADET RECRUITMENT *Progressive Academy, 13212-106 Ave.* — **Every Wed**, 6:30 - 9 pm. Free sports, activities, camping, rifling, wall climbing and orienteering. For more information call Jason 473-4500

ART-VENTURES *Profiles Public Art Gallery, 19 Perron St., St Albert, 460-4310* — Every third Sat, 1 - 4 pm. Drop in to the gallery and discover how much fun art can be. Children, ages 5 - 12. Suggested donation per child is $2. Parents must stay with their children

CAPOEIRA KIDS CLASSES *10540 Jasper Ave., 709-3500* — **Every Tue & Thu**, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, **Sat**, 1 – 2 pm. Capoeira is a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts & percussion. Info: www.capoeiraedmonton.ca.

FREE INDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM — **Every Sat, Nov-Jun** *Sacred Heart School Gymnasium, 96 St & 108 Ave.* Introduction to basic soccer skills by renowned FIFA coach Tony Wallace. Info: 420_0760

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES — **Dec 23**, 1 pm – 4 pm. *The Marketplace at Callingwood, 69 Ave. & 178 St.* All riders will receive a free activity book and hot chocolate

KIDS KARATE *Grandin School, 9884-110 St.* — **Every Tue & Fri**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Classes for kids aged 10 & up. Info: 975-6910 or 460-2931

YOUTH DROP-IN CENTRE *Castle Downs YMCA, 11510-153 Ave., 476-9622* — **Every Fri**, 7 – 10 pm. Basketball, air hockey, foosball, swimming & open gym. Call Trent, 476-9622 for Info.

QUEER

AGAPE *Education faculty, U of A Campus* — Focus group on sex and gender differences in education & culture. Pre-service & practicing teachers, community members welcome. Email andre.grace@ualberta.ca for Agape events schedule. Info: 492-0772

INSIDE/OUT *U of A Campus* — A campus-based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academic & staff. Straight allies are also welcome. Monthly meetings. Contact kwells@ualberta.ca or mwanham@ualberta.ca

PRIDE CENTRE *9540-111 Ave., 488-3234* — GLBT & Supporters Community & Resource Centre. Join a group or take part in special programming. Hours: Mon-Thu 1 pm - 10 pm, Fri 3 pm – 10 pm. Info: www.pridecentreofedmonton.org.

THURSDAY

BI-SEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP — Second **Thu** each month 7:30 pm. A social group for bi-curious and bi-sexual women. More info: groups.yahoo.com/group/bwedmonton.

COCAINE ANONYMOUS MEETING — Every Thu, 7 pm. *Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.)* CA Hotline: 425-2715.

FREE TO BE VOLLEYBALL *Amiskwacy Academy, 101 Airport Rd.* — **Every Thu**, 8 pm- 10 pm. GLBT players, intermediate level. Coaching & drills provided. Info: Alex at 424-9984 or flipside@telus.net. Recreational night every Wed, all levels welcome.

GAYWIRE *CJSR 88.5* — 6 pm: Edmonton's only radio show about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives. Featuring news, local and international features and community events.

HIV POSITIVE GLBT SUPPORT GROUP — Every second **Thu**, 7 pm - 9 pm, *Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.)* Drop-in support group facilitated by Mark from HIV Edmonton

LGBT SENIORS DROP IN — Every **Thu**, 2 pm – 4 pm, *Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.)* Info: Jeff, 488-3234

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB *The Roost, 10345-104 St.* — Second **Thu** of each month. Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends & supporters meet. Info: 387-3343 or go to groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions/.

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB — Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every **Tue & Thu.** Socializing after practice. Info www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm.

FRIDAY

CURLING WITH PRIDE *Shamrock Curling Club, 9330-90 Ave.* — **Every Fri**, 9 pm Info: curlingwithpride.com

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave.* — Last **Fri**, every month, 7 pm. TTIQ Alliance, dinner & social evening for trans-identified & questioning people, family & friends. Info: 718-1412 or ttiqalliance@shaw.ca.

SATURDAY

NORTHERN CHAPS *Boots, 10242-106 St.* — Edmonton's original leather-fetish-uniform club meets the **first and third Sat** of every month, 9 pm Info: main@northernchaps.com or www.northernchaps.com

[illegible] TEENS GAY BOWLING LEAGUE *Gateway Lanes & Recreation Centre, #100, 3414 Gateway Blvd.* N — 5 - 7 pm: group supper each week after bowling (optional). Cost is $15 per person. Info: Peter 483-1075.

SUIT UP & SHOW UP *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave* — Big Book study 12 noon – 3pm

YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave.* — **Every Sat**, 7 - 9 pm: Providing a warm and friendly place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight and questioning youth under the age of 25 can gather to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe, supportive and caring environment. Info: members.shaw.ca/yuy.

SUNDAY

ARCTIC FRONTRUNNERS — 10 am: A group of gay and lesbian runners meets Sun mornings and hits the river valley trails. Runners of all speeds are welcome. Our runs are typically 7 - 10 km long and take 40 - 60 minutes. Info: 436-7892.

BEARS MOVIE NIGHT *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave.* — Last **Sun** of every month, 1 pm - 6 pm, Movies in the T.V. room. Info: 488-3234.

EDMONTON TRANSSEXUAL PEER SUPPORT GROUP — Every 2nd & 4th **Sun**, 2 pm, *Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.)* Info: 488-3234.

LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH *Garneau United Church, 11148 84 Ave.* — Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual Christians and their friends, denominations, faiths welcome Worship [illegible] Sun Info 887-8611 or lambdachurch[illegible]

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP *Pride Centre [illegible] Ave.* — Every **Sun**, 7 pm. Men's social & discussion group. Call: 488-3234.

SOUTHMINSTER-STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH *10740-19 Ave.* — 10 am: Welcomes people [illegible] sexual orientations. Info: 987-4974

SPIRITUAL LIVING CENTRE — Celebrating [illegible] embracing the spiritual magnificence in all [illegible] www.spiritualliving centre.com, 989-3752

TUESDAY

FREEDOM METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON *10086 MacDonald Dr* — 7 [illegible] pm: A church for all people. Info: 429-23[illegible]

GROUP MOVIE NIGHT — Phone to find out what movie, when to meet and where. Join us [illegible] afterwards, too. Cost: Free for 2 members [illegible] extra costs. Info: 454-0313.

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB — Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue & Thu. Socialization after practice www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm

OUTREACH *Heritage Room, Athabasca Hall, U of A Campus* — 5 pm: U of A based group for lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight friendly students, staff and faculty. Open [illegible] community, not just U of A. Info: www.outreach.pixelalmighty.com or outreach@ualberta.ca

PFLAG *Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave.* — Supporting first Tues every month at 7 pm for parents families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered people. Info: Ruby at 43[illegible] edmonton@pflagcanada.ca.

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP *Garneau United [illegible] meeting room, 11148 84 Ave.* — Second Tue [illegible] every month, 7:30 - 9:30 pm: TTIQ, an [illegible] & support group for trans-identified & [illegible] people. Info: 718-1412 or ttiqalliance@s[illegible]

WEDNESDAY

EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION Meets the second **Wed** of every month, for casual networking with the GLBT business community Locations listed on www.edmontonrba.c[illegible]

FREE TO BE VOLLEYBALL *Amiskwacy Academy, Airport Rd.* — **Every Wed**, 8 pm - 10 pm [illegible] players of all levels welcome. Info: Marc at [illegible] 0356 or padremarc@hotmail.com.

OPEN DOOR CLUB — **Every Wed, 5 pm**, *Grant MacEwan College - City Centre Campus [illegible] 217)* A social group for LGBTQ Students [illegible] friends at Grant MacEwan College.

YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) — A support group for LGBT parents, partners and their friends Meets first and third Wed of the month Info 42[illegible] 6311 or 415-5434

BATH HOUSES

DOWN UNDER *12224 Jasper Ave., 482-7960 www.gayedmonton.com*

STEAMERS *9668 Jasper Ave., 422-2581*

STEAMWORKS *11745-Jasper Ave.* — Open 24/7 Info: 451-5554.

DANCE

DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE — 2nd & 4th Mon [illegible] each month, 7:30 pm. *Riverdale Hall, 9231-10[illegible] Ave.* Info Coll: 467-1285.

RODA DE CAPOEIRA — Every **Sat**, 1 pm, *Capoeira Academy, 10540 Jasper Ave., 709-3500* A [illegible] performance of Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts & music, invented by African slaves. Info: www.capoeiraedmonton.ca

FREE STUFF

CALL TO WIN

It is with rockin' good cheer and charitable tidings this Holiday Season, that *SEE Magazine* revamps its regular Free Stuff contest. Instead of the weekly call-in trivia madness, *SEE* will be accepting donations for the Food Bank as part of our weekly movie pass giveaway. The first 10 people to visit the *SEE* office on Friday, Dec 29 at 1 pm—and not one minute before!—with a non-perishable food donation for the Food Bank will receive a double guest pass to see *Valver* at the Garneau Theatre, or *Little Children* or *Snow Cake* at the Princess Theatre.

SEE will be also accepting Food Bank donations throughout the holiday season, up until the New Year, should any feel so inclined to give without receiving prizes.

Happy Whatever-Holiday-Suits-You from the gang at *SEE Mag!*
Please do consider others less fortunate, and have a helluva good festive season.

THEATRE

CHIMPROV *Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave. 448-0695* — **Every Sat** at 11 pm (except last Sat of the month) Chimprov comedy improv.

DIE-NASTY *Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave.* — This season, the Canadian Comedy Award Winning improv troupe Die-Nasty presents The Die-Hards the greatest NHL hockey team that never was! Every **Mon,** 8 pm. Tickets $10 at the door. Info www.die-nasty.com or 433-3399

RAPID FIRE THEATRE *10329-83 Ave. 448-0695* — Every **Fri** at 11 pm Rapid Fire's insane improv show, $10

THE SOUND OF MUSIC — **Dec 28-30 & Jan 4-6** at 7.30 pm, **Jan 1 at** 2 pm. *Festival Place, Sherwood Park* Festival Place's annual Christmas production Tickets available at the Festival Place box office 449-3387

WINFIELD'S INFERNO — **Jan 6-28.** *Citadel Theatre 9828 101A Ave.* By Dan Needles. Walt Wingfield, stockbroker turned farmer, is back. This time the Orange hall is burned down and the hapless agriculturalist must lead the charge to get it rebuilt Director Douglas Beattie Starring, Ron Beattie Shoctor Theatre Tickets $45-60, available at the Citadel Box office

LIVE COMEDY

KOKANEE COMEDY BATTLE *Sidetrack Café, 10238-104 St* — **Every Thu**, 9 30 pm Local & touring comics battle for prizes Come down & vote for your favourite comic Hosted by Kathleen McGee Info. www.myspace.com/kokaneecomedybattle

THE COMEDY FACTORY *408-3414 Gateway Blvd, 469-4999* — **Dec 28-30** Bob Beddow **Thu & Fri** 8 30, **Sat** 8 30 & 10pm **Wed** Whacky Wednesday

THE COMIC STRIP *WEM 483-5999* — **Dec 26-30** Rob Pue w/ Lars Callerou & Sean Thompson **Mon** Hit or Miss Mondays, amateurs compete for audience approval **Tue** Alternative Comedy night, hypnotists, magicians & street performers. Info www.thecomicstrip.ca

YUK YUKS *66 St & 137 Ave Londonderry Mall, 481-9857* — **Dec 31** NYE w/ Peter Kelamis **Wed** Pro Am Comedy Jam Info yukyuks.com

ALT CINEMA

METRO CINEMA *Zeidler Hall Citadel Theatre Complex, 9828-101A Ave.* — Closed for the Holidays. Re-opens Jan 5 with *Lunacy* and *American Hardcore*

Famous Players SilverCity
FAMOUS PLAYERS IMAX THEATRE
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SHOWTIMES DECEMBER 29, 2006-JANUARY 4, 2007

GARNEAU

8712 - 109 STREET • 433-0728

VOLVER 14A
Nightly 6:50 9:20; Sat Sun & Mon matinees 2:00 Mature themes

PRINCESS

10337 82 AVENUE • 433-0728

LITTLE CHILDREN 18A
Nightly 6:50, 9:20; Sat Sun & Mon matinee 2:00. Sexual content.

SNOW CAKE 14A
Nightly 7 00 9 10 Sat Sun & Mon matinee 2 30

MAGIC LANTERN CINEMA

205 Main Street, Spruce Grove • 962 2332

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Nightly 7 00 9 00 Matinees Dec 23, 26 & 28, 1 00 3 00

METRO CINEMA

9828-101A AVENUE (ZEIDLER HALL, CITADEL THEATRE) • 425-9212
CLOSED UNTIL JAN 5

GRANDIN THEATRES

GRANDIN MALL, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE, ST ALBERT • 458-9822

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Daily 12 55, 3 05 5 20, 7 25, 9 25
Not recommended for young children No passes

THE HOLIDAY PG
Daily 6:45, 9:15. Not recommended for young children.

THE NATIVITY STORY PG
Daily 4:50

HAPPY FEET G
Daily 12 40, 2:50

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Daily 1 00, 3:00, 5.00, 7.00, 9:00.

ERAGON PG
Daily 1 15, 3 15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:20 Not recommended for young children, violence

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Daily 1 30 3 30 5 30, 7 30, 9 30 No passes.

ST. ALBERT CINEMAS

490, 140 St Albert Road St Albert • 418-6999
WE ARE NOW CLOSED ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

LEDUC CINEMAS

4702-50 St. Leduc • 986-2728

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Nightly 7 10, 9 20, matinee daily 1 00, 3:25

ERAGON PG
Nightly 6 55, 9:25, matinee daily 1 10, 3 35 Violence, not recommended for young children.

THE HOLIDAY PG
Nightly 7 00, 9 35 Not recommended for young children

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Nightly 7 05, 9 30, matinee daily 1 00, 3 30

HAPPY FEET G
Matinee daily 1 05 3 20

NEW WEST MALL 8

WEST EDMONTON MALL, PHASE II ENTRANCE [illegible] • 444-[illegible]
BOX OFFICE OPENS NIGHTLY 6 15 • OPEN MATINEES SAT/SUN 1 30

TURISTAS 18A
Fri-Sat, Mon 1:15, 3:40, 7:25, 9:55 Sun 1:15, 3:40, 7:25; Tues-Thurs 3:40 7:25 9:55 Brutal violence, gory scenes

DECK THE HALLS PG
Fri-Sat Mon 12 35 2 45, 5 00, 7 15, 9 45, Sun12 35 2 45 5:00, Tues-Thurs 2:45 5:00, 7 15, 9 45

THE PRESTIGE 14A
Fri-Sat, Mon 12.40, 3:30, 7:00, 9.50, Sun 12.40, 3.30, 7:00, Tues-Thurs 3 30, 7:00, 9:50.

TRAILER PARK BOYS: THE MOVIE 18A
Fri-Sat, Mon 1 20, 3 50, 7 30, 10 00 SUN 1 20, 3 50 7 30 Tues-Thurs [illegible] 7 30, 10:00 Coarse language, substance abuse

FLICKA G
Fri-Sat, Mon 1 00, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10; Tues-Thurs 3:00, 5:05, 7:10.

LET'S GO TO PRISON 14A
Fri-Sat Mon 12:50, 3:00, 4:55, 7:20, 9:20; Sun 12:50, 3:00, 4:55, Tues-Thurs 3.00, 4.55, 7.20, 9.20. Coarse language

OPEN SEASON G
Fri-Sat, Mon 12:45, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:15; Sun12:45, 2:50, 4:50, 6 50; Tues-Thurs 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:15.

THE ILLUSIONIST PG
Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 9 3[illegible] Mature themes

THE GUARDIAN PG
Fri-Sat Mon 12 30, 3 35, 6 45, 9:30, Sun12:30, 3:35, 6:45, Tues-Thurs 3 35 6 45 9 30
[illegible]

SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON

[illegible]

WE ARE MARSHALL PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible] No passes.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri-Thurs [illegible] passes

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible] Not recommended for young children

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible]

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Thurs 1 10, 4 10, 7:00, 10:00

ERAGON PG
Fri-Thurs 12:00, 2 45, 5.20, 8:00, 10:30.
Violence not recommended for children No passes

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Thurs12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30.

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Thurs 12 15, 3 20, 6 40 9 40 Not recommended for children

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Thurs 4 40, 7:40, 10:40. Gory scenes, brutal violence.

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 45 3 50 7 10 10 30 Violence disturbing content

THE NATIVITY STORY PG
Fri-Mon Wed-Thurs 2 50, 3.40, 6.30, 9.00, Tues 12.50, 3.40.

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 20, 3:30, 6.50, 10 10 Violence.

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Thurs 1 20, 4 00, 6 45 9 20

BORAT! 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 50 3 10 5 30 8 10, 10 45 Coarse language sexual content, crude content not recommended for young children

THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE G
Fri-Thurs 12:10, 2.20

DREAMGIRLS PG
Fri-Thurs 12 40 3 45 6 45 9 50 Coarse language mature themes No passes

BLACK CHRISTMAS 18A
Fri-Thurs 1 00, 3:15, 5 40, 8 15, 10 45 Gory scenes, disturbing content.

OILERS PPV: EDMONTON VS FLORIDA
Tues 7 30

NORTH EDMONTON CINEMAS

4[illegible]31 [illegible] Avenue • 732 2223

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri-Thurs 11 50 2 15 4 50 7 30 10:30 Not recommended for young children

WE ARE MARSHALL PG
Fri-Thurs 1 10 4 20, 7 20, 10:15 No passes

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri-Thurs [illegible]

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Thurs 1 10 4 10 7 15, 10 10

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 30 3 30 6 40 9 55 Violence

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Fri-Thurs 12 25 2 55 5:30 8:00 10:40

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Thurs 12 00 2 20 4 40 7:10 9:30

ERAGON PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 7 50 [illegible] Violence not recommended for children

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Thurs 12 50 3 45 [illegible] 50 10:00 Not recommended for children

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 45, 3 50, 7 05, 10 20 Violence disturbing content

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Thurs 3 40, 6 45, 9 45 Gory scenes, Brutal violence.

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Mon, Wed 11 55, 2:30, 5 10, 7:40, 10:05, Tues 11:55, 2 30; Thurs 11 55, 2 30, [illegible]

THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE G
Fri-Thurs 1 20

THE NATIVITY STORY PG
Fri-Thurs 12:00

DREAMGIRLS PG
[illegible] No passes

BLACK CHRISTMAS 18A
[illegible]

METROPOLITAN OPERA: THE MAGIC FLUTE
[illegible]

OILERS PPV: EDMONTON VS FLORIDA
Tues 7 00

CITY CENTRE 9 CINEMAS

[illegible]

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Thurs 12 50, 4 00, 7 15, 10 10

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri-Thurs 1 [illegible] 3 50 7 00 9 30 Not recommended for young children

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 6 30 9 40

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible]

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 6 45 9 [illegible]

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Thurs 12 30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00 Not recommended for children.

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 6 35 9 55 Violence disturbing content

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 40, 4:30, 8:30.

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Thurs [illegible] Gory scenes brutal violence

CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS

4211-139TH AVENUE • 472-7600

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri-Thurs 2:00 4 40 7:00 9 20 Not recommended for young children.

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Fri-Thurs 1 50 4 30 7 30, 10:00

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Thurs 1 15 3 50, 6:50 9:25

ERAGON PG
Fri-Thurs 1.40, 4:20, 7.20, 9:45
Violence not recommended for young children

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Thurs 9 35 Gory scenes, brutal violence

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 45, 3 40, 6 35 Violence.

WE ARE MARSHALL PG
Fri-Thurs 4 10 7 15 9 50

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 30

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:00, 4 30, 8:00

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 3 30 6 40, 9 3[illegible] Violence disturbing content

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Thurs 1 10, 4:00, 6 45, 9 40 Not recommended for children.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
[illegible]

GATEWAY 8

[illegible]

DEJA VU 14A
Fri-Mon 1 05, 3 45, 6 15, 9 40, Tues-Thurs 6 15, 9:40.

KABUL EXPRESS 14A
Fri-Mon [illegible] 6 45, Tues-Thurs 6 45.

BAABUL PG
Fri-Mon [illegible] 9 30 Tues-Thurs [illegible]

FLUSHED AWAY G
[illegible]

THE FOUNTAIN 14A
Fri-Thurs 9 15

BHAGAM BHAG STC
[illegible] 6 30 8 45 Tues-Thurs [illegible] 30 8 45

THE HISTORY OF BOYS 14A
Fri-Mon 1 40, 4 10, 7:15, 9:45, Tues-Thurs 7:15, 9.45.
Coarse language mature themes.

WESH IGRAM STC
Fri-Mon [illegible] 7 20 9 35 Tues-Thurs 7:20 9:35

STRANGER THAN FICTION PG
Fri-Mon 1 10, 4:00, 6 40, 9.20, Tues-Thurs 6 40, 9.20.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS G
Fri-Mon 1 25, 3:50.

[illegible] PG
Fri-Thurs 6 50, 9.25.

WESTMOUNT CENTRE

111 Avenue & Groat Road • 455-8726

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
[illegible] Not recommended for young children

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
[illegible]

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Thurs 12 15, 3 20 6:30, 9.30. Not recommended for children.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Thurs 12 30, 3 00, 6 45, 9:05

SILVERCITY

WEST EDMONTON MALL

ERAGON PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 7 15 10 00 Violence not recommended for young children No passes

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 25, 3 30, 6 50, 10:15 Violence.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Thurs 12 20, 2:40, 5:00, 7 20, 9:45 No passes.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 45 6 40 9 55 No passes

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Sun 11 30 2 00 4 30 7:00 9:20 Mon-Thurs 2:00 4 30 7 00 9 30

BORAT 14A
Fri-Thurs 1:05, 3:10, 5 15, 7:35, 9:40. Coarse language, sexual content, crude content, not recommended for children.

APOCALYPTO 14A
Fri-Sat Mon-Thurs 12 50, 3 45 7 10 10:20 Sun 12 50 3 30 6 55, 10 20 Gory scenes, brutal violence

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 3:50 7 10 10 05 Not recommended for children

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
Fri-Thurs [illegible] 7 10 10:20 Violence, disturbing content

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Tue Thur 1 10 3 40 6 30, 9 15 Wed 1 10 3 40, 9 [illegible]

THE NATIVITY STORY PG
Fri-Sat Mon-Tues 12 30 4 05, 6 45, 9 50 Sun 12 30, 9 50

DEJA VU 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 40 3:20 7:05 10:10

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS G
Fri Sun-Thur [illegible] 6 35 9 25 Sat [illegible] 3 25, 9 25

WE ARE MARSHALL PG
Sneak Preview Sat 7 00

WWE: ARMAGEDDON STC
Sat 6 00

ROCKY BALBOA PG
Wed-Thur [illegible] 3 3[illegible] 7 00 10:00

MOVIES 12

130 AVENUE & 50 STREET • 472-9779

TURISTAS 18A
Daily 1 46, 2:05, 4.50, 7.35, 10.05, late nite Fri/Sat [illegible]15 Brutal violence, gory scenes.

THE PRESTIGE 14A
Daily 1 15 4 00 6 50 9 35

DECK THE HALLS 14A
Daily [illegible] 4 40 [illegible] 15 9 40 late nite Fri Sat [illegible]

TENACIOUS D: THE PICK OF DESTINY 14A
Daily [illegible] 4 30 [illegible] 9 20 late nite Fri Sat 11 30
Crude sexual language, substance abuse

SAW III 18A
Daily [illegible] late nite Fri Sat [illegible]
Gory scenes, brutal violence

THE DEPARTED 18A
[illegible]

TRAILER PARK BOYS: THE MOVIE 18A
Daily 4 45, 7.35, 10:00, late nite Fri/Sat 12 10
Coarse language, substance abuse

JET LI'S FEARLESS PG
Daily [illegible] 45 4 45 [illegible] late nite [illegible]
Violence, not recommended for young children.

BARNYARD G
Daily 11 30, 1 15, 3 15

THE GUARDIAN PG
Daily [illegible] 6 40 Coarse language not recommended for young children

KIDS CABIN FEVER FOR THURS JAN 4 - OPEN SEASON G
Daily 1 10

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG
[illegible]

THE MARINE 14A
Daily 5 10 7 40 9:55 late nite Fri/[illegible]

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG
[illegible]

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST PG
[illegible]
Frightening scenes, not recommended for young children

CINEMA CITY 12

[illegible]

TURISTAS 18A
Daily 11 20, 1:55, 4:15, 7:40, 10:05, late [illegible]
Brutal violence, gory scenes

THE PRESTIGE 14A
Daily [illegible]

DECK THE HALLS PG
Daily 11:00, 1 50, 4:35, 7 05, 9 30, late nite Fri/Sat 11 30.

TENACIOUS D: THE PICK OF DESTINY 14A
Daily 11 15, 1 40, 4:05, 7.30, 10:00; late nite Fri/Sat 12 10 Crude sexual language, substance abuse

SAW III 18A
Daily 11 35, 2:05, 4 00, 7 [illegible] late nite Fri/Sat [illegible]
Gory scenes, brutal violence

THE DEPARTED 18A
Daily 1 05, 4 00, 7 25, late nite Fri/Sat [illegible]
Coarse language, violence

TRAILER PARK BOYS: THE MOVIE 18A
Daily 11 30 4 25 9 35 late nite Fri/Sat 11 35
Coarse language substance abuse

JET LI'S FEARLESS PG
Daily 11:15, 1.45, 4:30, 7 15, 9:55; late nite Fri/Sat 11:55 Violence not recommended for young children

BARNYARD G
Daily [illegible]

THE GUARDIAN PG
Daily 1 15 6 50 Coarse language not recommended for young children

KIDS CABIN FEVER FOR THURS JAN 4 - OPEN SEASON G
Daily 1 0[illegible]

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE 14A
Daily 11 25, 4 10, 9 45 late nite Fri/Sat 12:00
Coarse language mature themes

THE MARINE 14A
Daily 7 3[illegible], 9 5[illegible], late nite Fri/Sat [illegible] Violence.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG
Daily 1 35, 6.55

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST PG
Daily [illegible] Frightening scenes not recommended for young children

GALAXY CINEMAS

[illegible]

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG
Fri-Thurs [illegible] Not recommended for young children No passes

THE GOOD SHEPHERD 14A
Fri-Thurs 12 30, 4 30, 8 30 No passes.

ROCKY BALBOA PG
[illegible]

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG
[illegible] 10 [illegible]

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
Fri-Thurs 12 20, 2 45, 5 10, 7 30, 9:50.

ERAGON PG
[illegible]
Violence, not recommended for young children. No passes.

BLOOD DIAMOND 14A
[illegible]

THE HOLIDAY PG
Fri-Mon, Wed-Thurs 12 35, 3 45, 6.45, 10 [illegible] Not recommended for children

APOCALYPTO 14A
[illegible]

CASINO ROYALE 14A
Fri-Thurs 12:15, 3.30, 6:40, 10:00 Violence

HAPPY FEET G
Fri-Thurs 1:00 3:55, 6:[illegible]

OILERS PPV: EDMONTON VS FLORIDA
Tues 7 30

classified

PHONE: 430-9003 FAX: 432-1102 EMAIL: classified@see.greatwest.ca

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Musicians Available

Country lead guitarist available Lives downtown Does not drive. 421-1250

Vocalist available for original group. Phone Kelsey 489-7914

Singer/songwriter looking for new band. Nothing heavy. Samples @ www.dresdenrow.com Email edmrockband@hotmail.com if interested

Vocalist/guitarist looking for band. I like punk/rap/hardcore. No Blockheads Mike 482-6663

Guitarist available jam/form band. Have jam space. 60's to 2006 rock 909-1993 or itsinatas@hotmail.com

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Experienced drummer looking for a hard rock, rockabilly or old school metal band. Email jetfkicks@hotmail.com

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Full band looking for the ultimate singer. Must desire to take over the world
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Second guitarist required to complete cover band. Strong harmony vocals/keyboards would be asset. Ron@935-4966 or Bob@456-7412

Inspiration Point is looking for lead singer & bassist Call Derek 720-3078 or Liam 641-6011

The Groove Hounds are trying out drummers. Please call [illegible]

Bassist seeks other musicians. Rock, folk, blues, country, no jazz. Leduc. Good gear, can gig, [illegible]

Pop Country Band looking for Bass, Steel Guitar, or Fiddle player Call Clay at 457-2287

Acoustic Player looking for another guitar and others to play influences like Country, Raggae Dale 709-6617

Musicians Wanted

Acoustic Player looking for another guitar to play Raggae, Country, etc. Call Dale 709-6617

Age 17-21 Singer/frontman influenced by Axl Rose, Sebastian Bach, Chris Robinson Dan or Mike 476-2304

Solid metal act seeking experienced bassist with pipes. Serious/ be willing to experiment sonically. Pro gear/attitude Casey 221-0419

Pop Country Band looking for bassist. Call Clay at 457-2287

Female rythym vocalist seeks musicians for country/classic rock band. Male vocalist & fiddle player especially. Lynn 633-7546

MUSICIANS WANTED for Black Gold Community Big Band, Leduc Call Richard 929-9834 or Graham 987-2883 or email blackgoldband@shaw.ca

GottaGrooveGradgeBand, Rockin' the Blues, rock'n'roll, jammin' Need drums, bass, guitar for FUN and progress. 436-1127 Ian

Wanted musicians with vocals, drums, bass, guitar. Phone after 6pm. 443-1153

The Killer Cowboys seek established bassist for immediate local gig. Knowledge of country. 913-7322

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Disco/dance band seeking female singers. Appearance & personality important. Leave message (780)288-5345

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Metal Band Seeks Bassist, Experience and gear a must. Original songs recorded. Serious Inquires only. 633-6438

Musicians Open Stage & Social Club looking for members. Large, nice studio with stage, big screen TV etc. Call Scott 999-4513

Singer Wanted for the Deadtime Queens. Bon Scott, Freddy Mercury, David Gahan. www.myspace.com/thedeadtimequeens Rock/ Punk. 489-7194

Singer/songwriter wanted for duo. Acoustic light rock, etc 489-7194

Nashville country R&B artist looking for bassist, guitar and drummer for originals/covers. Peter 484-2182

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Chain of Fools.ca R&B band looking for trumpet player Email dcoady@telus.net

Drummer wanted for rock band. Have space/pa Demos available Kelsey 489-7194

Artist To Artist

Join Artsy Mum, a collective of emerging artists with young children. Share inspiration, knowledge, and childcare. artsymum@gmail.com

Volunteer models/actors wanted for art project Involving photography. All types/ages. Good portfolio images. michael@commonmagpie.com

A poetry choir is being created in Edmonton. If interested contact Judy-Anne 424-1839 , or wilsonj@telus.net

Photographer seeking musicians /band for project, "Still Music". Will get free digital copies. Call Ryan @ 238-3686

Female lead needed for short film. 20-30 yrs to play drug dealer Jesus. Payed gig. Hair and make-up on set. Email josh@joshloewen.com

ARTSHAB STUDIO GALLERY featuring guest artists for monthly exhibits. Include: Proposal, physical description, any special requirements, 10 slides/ photos, c.v., artist statement 423-2966

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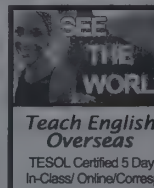

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Volunteers

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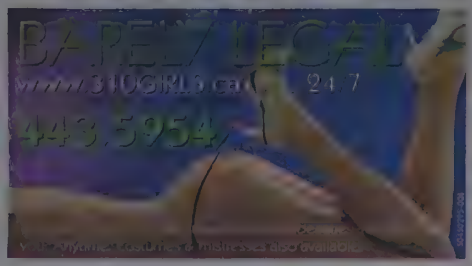

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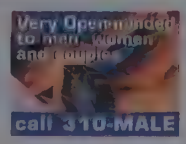

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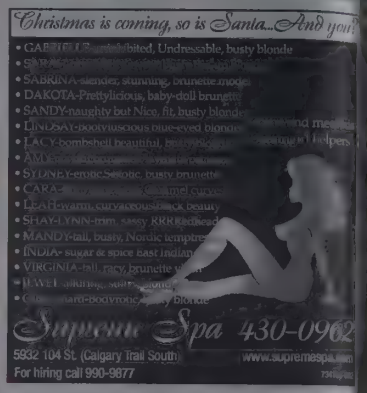

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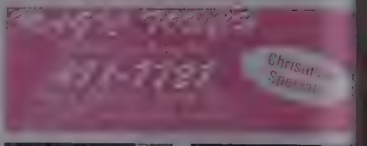

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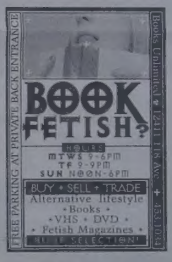

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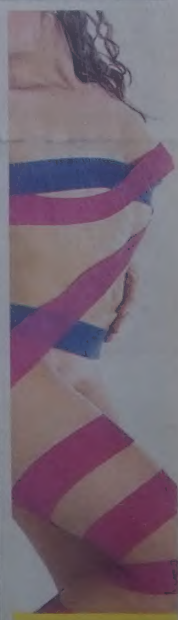

CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

with THE KID

DECEMBER 28 - JANUARY 3

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)
Your present struggle's more thana quarrel and though they're onthe run, it ain't time yet to rest onyour laurels. Some pockets ofresistance'll have annoyin' persis-tence and are more than ready togo the whole distance. Althoughyou're crazy if you think it's done,this war ain't that far from bein'won!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)
Not takin' care of the basics canhave a huge cost, like when forwant of a nail, the kingdom waslost. That ain't to say that you'redoomed to fail, just that youmight wanna think twice beforechuckin' "unneeded" nails. If youwanna get outta the red and into the black, now's the time to be apack rat!

PISCES (Feb. 19 – March 20)
Life comes and goes so dang fast,you can forget to enjoy it as itwhizzes past. Live it like a whirlwind romance where you dine,dance and spend half your timeoutta your pants. The joy youexperience in your soul will outweigh the pain in your heart thatcomes from knowin' in your headthat it was doomed from thestart!

ARIES (March 21 – April 19)
Don't worry 'bout bein' impulsive.You're a fire sign and flames movepretty fast, don't they? But rightnow it'd be best if you kept it con-fained like a campfire. Keep thatenergy for concrete endeavours-like cookin' food and stayin' warm cause lettin' it loose now wouldonly cause harm!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20)
This week, look at life like youwere a tick hangin' out on abranch when a big, juicy mammalcomes by. Bein' a brilliant in'l bug,you jump on your opportunity,hitch yourself a ride and startburrowin' until you're deep inside.When the cosmos sends yousomethin' yummy, make darnsure you fill your tummy!

GEMINI (May 21 – June 20)
If you're worried 'bout whetheryou can dance fast enough whileBlack Bart's blastin' his six-shoot-ers at the soles of your feet, don'tforget you're a Gemini. There'stwo of you. You can dance twiceas fast as any soul in the wholesaloon – and look damned gooddoin' it, too!

CANCER (June 21 – July 22)
This week, you're gonna attempto play peace-maker and thatain't a bad idea. Now, normallyyou'd want to let the two partieshave their say at the table, buthis time you won't be able to. No,if you wanna stop these two folksfrom fuedin' 'n' hatin' you regonna have to do some manipu-lation!

LEO (July 23 – Aug. 22)
You cats are agile, you've gotgreat balance and landin' flat onyour feet after tailin' is one ofyour talents. However, pressin'your luck's a whole different story.Just 'cause you were born withnine lives don't mean you canthrow one away, so this week safeis the way you oughtta play!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)
If you doubt that 1 + 1 = 3, whatabout a man, a woman and theirlittle baby? When they created lifefrom deep in their hearts, it wasn't multiplication and the sumwas more than its parts. There's asolution you won't be able to seeif you only look for it logically!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)
Right now ain't the time for spiritual seekin', followin' beacons orlistenin' to slick preachersspeakin'. In fact, the only thingyou could do that'd be right wouldbe to forget all o' that and simplysit tight. You've asked some ques-tions and your answers it comeUntil then, don't do anythingdumb!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)
Just sittin' around waitin', usin'your bait 'n' jerkin' on the linein't gonna land you nothin' thistime. The fish ain't bitin' so you'vegotta go put on your wetsuit, grabyour snorkel 'n' spear gun andfind some to shoot. Good thingsmay come to those who wait butif you don't go get 'em yourself,they may come too late!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)
Once in a while, destiny drops aload of dirty laundry on yourdoorstep and tells you to do it. Itmay seem like too much work andtotally unfair, especially when yousee skid marks in all the under-wear. Well, at least you should bepretty happy to learn that onceyou're done, destiny'll owe youpayment in return!

You can contact The Kid at cruisinthecosmos@hotmail.com

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Sexual achievements, 2006

Virtual sex, housework, and Wet Spots in the news

MY MESSY BEDROOM
JOSEY VOGELS

HOLY CRYSTAL-METH-SNORTING, GAY-hustler-screwing ministers, what a year it's been for sex! Here are MMB's annual awards for the best, the worst and the just plain weird of 2006.

Most fun contribution to global peace: Global Orgasm Day (globalorgasm.org). According to Baring Witness (a non-profit organization for peace and partnership), the folks behind this Dec. 22 event, "by concentrating any thoughts during and after orgasm on peace and partnership, the combination of high orgasmic energy and mindful intention will reduce global levels of violence, hatred and fear." So ladies and gentleman, have an orgasm next Dec. 22 in the name of world peace.

Most disturbing indication that people would rather be pretending to have sex that actually having it: Virtual sex and gaming. This year saw the first sex and gaming conference in California proving that gaming and sex are no longer reserved for not-getting-any-computer-game-nerds. Virtual worlds like Second Life are apparently teeming with sex. Of course, I wouldn't know. I couldn't get past figuring out how to fix my "avatar's" hairstyle to find out. Sex in real life just seems like so much less work.

Most blatant attempt to cash in on single people's vulnerability: On-line dating sites that make single people believe that there is some scientific formula to meeting people like chemistry.com that claims to take a "scientific approach to dating" that will get you "face-to-face" with Mr. or Mrs. Right. Meeting people face-to-face? Now that is revolutionary.

Best indication that sex toys are the new status symbol: Designer toys like Je Joue and the 24-karat Little Gold Vibrator both retailing for over $300 each. Next thing you know, we'll be seeing them in diamond-encrusted pouches being carried by celebs on the red carpet.

Most controversial award show of the year: The first-ever Feminist Porn Awards put on by the brilliant women of Good For Her (goodforher.com). Feminism and porn? Huh? That's right, turns out the two really can be friends.

Who-didn't-see-that-coming-so-why-is-everyone-so-shocked trend of the year: Kids with web cams getting down in dirty for the camera. What did you expect? Kids exchanging their class notes by video? I know, I know, it's all fun and games until some pervert posing as a teenager befriends them and starts trading the images with all his pervy friends, but we teach kids not to get into cars with strangers and most of them don't. Surely we can teach them to be careful about with whom they share racy images.

Most fascinating connection between women's obsession with housecleaning and shame about our dirty vaginas: Laura Kipnis book *The Female Thing: Dirt, Sex, Envy, Vulnerability*. After blowing the lid off the monogamous ideal in her book *Against Love*, Kipnis takes women to task for worrying more about keeping themselves and their homes spotless than really going after what they want. So ladies, put down the soap and sponge, stop complaining that he doesn't pick up his socks, and go after what you really want.

Most obnoxious celebrity obsession: Pantyless young female celebrities. Is it just me, or has anyone bothered to question whether all these crotch shots of coincidentally young, hot, wild-child celebs are photo-shopped fakes? Been to a celebrity porn site lately? Oh but, believing these girls are flashing pussy for the paparazzi fits so much more conveniently into our Madonna/whore complex. Oh my god, Britney, you've got young children at home: what are you doing wearing no panties!!

Most successful use of sex to create hype for a film: John Cameron Mitchell's film *Shortbus*. Sure, it was a decent little film about a bunch of freaky New Yorkers struggling with their sexuality, but do you really think it would have got so much attention if it weren't for all the fuss over the actors having real sex?

ME AND T
Josey and femini
pornographer Trista
Taormino at the firs
Feminist Porn Awards

Catchiest video about doing your guy in the ass: The Wet Spots "Do You Take It?" Seriously, go check it out (www.thewetspots.com) and tell me you're not humming it the rest of the day.

Most surprising rediscovery: *Playgirl* magazine. I'm serious. The guys are actually hot and not photographed washing their cars or climbing ladders as they are in the 1977 issue I still have from the last time I looked at *Playgirl*. And nary a moustache in sight.

Biggest waste of time with the most satisfying outcome move by the current Conservative government: The (free) vote against the motion to open the debate about legalizing gay marriage more than a year after its been made law. What's next, reopening the debate about women's right vote?

Country that is still most messed up about sex: The United States of America (see above mentioned meth-snorting, gay-hustler fucking minister, for example).

Most reasonable and informed voices on sexuality in America: Marty Klein of sexuality-intelligence.org and Susie Bright at susiebright.com.

Best Susie Bright quote from the web site of the sassiest Canadian sex zine licketysplitzine.com: "If you don't like what you see out your window, the most subversive thing you can do is make your own vision. Why do you think is going to make erotic expression meaningful to you if not yourself? "

Wise words to keep in mind as we head into 2007. See ya then!

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Pressing concern

He's not sorry enough: call the cops

SAVAGE LOVE
DAN SAVAGE

THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF QUESTION YOU usually answer, but I hope you will consider it anyway.

I was in a good relationship with a guy, Enis for naming's sake, for three years. About a year ago, Enis asked me if we could have anal sex. I might lose your sympathy here, but I have no interest in anal sex at all. I had a traumatic experience with anal sex that resulted in some permanent damage; I cannot do it without a lot of pain.

I told Enis no and that I was surprised he asked given my past. I offered to do him, if that was what he was looking for. He refused, telling me he wasn't gay. He asked me to reconsider a few more times, but I always told him no. Enis even attempted to just "add it in" while we were having sex once. It fucking hurt, and I flipped out on him. I told him I wasn't going to change my mind, and if he had to have anal sex then he could have it with someone else, giving him an out if it mattered that much to him.

"Enis had no right to fuck with your ass then, and he has no right to fuck with your head now."

A month ago, we were making love. I was restrained to the bed; we did this all the time. The next thing I knew, he's fingering my anus. I told him to stop, but he wouldn't. He took his time, stretching and rubing. I was screaming and crying for him to stop the whole time. I won't get into how much it hurt, but suffice it to say, I nearly passed out from blood loss as a result of his tearing open old scars. He freaked out when he saw the amount of blood on the bed and called 911. (This was after he'd had an orgasm). I spent a week in the hospital and ended up with 30 stitches to rerepair the damage. I'm still in a lot of pain.

I refused to see him while I was in the hospital. I didn't take his calls. I gave the flowers he sent to other patients. He utterly and completely betrayed my trust. I trusted him with my safety when I let him restrain me, and he took advantage and hurt me. I want nothing to do with him ever again. I've been told he's been on suicide watch at the local hospital several times since the incident. His friends and family tell me he's sorry, that he didn't mean to hurt me, and that I should forgive him. I realize that he may have not intended to hurt me; he did use lubrication, and attempted to open me up a bit first. If he had meant to hurt me then he would have just shoved his way in. But the fact is, I said no.

So, my question to you: Do I forgive him or let him wallow in guilt? I'm not traumatized (emotionally anyway), though of course my heart is broken, and I know I'll move on. I am not pursuing legal action. He and his family paid for my medical bills and other expenses.

Thank you for your time.

No Cute Acronym

Forgive him? Your ex wants you to forgive him? His friends and family are pestering you about forgiving him?

Good fucking God.

Your ex should get down on his knees twice a day and thank his lucky fucking stars that you didn't press charges. He raped you—you know that, right? The word "rape" doesn't appear anywhere in your letter, NCA, which I hope isn't a sign that you see this "incident" as anything other than a full-blown sexual assault. So what if Enis used lube? So what if he took his time? Some rapists use condoms and say "please" and "thank you." They're still rapists.

And, I'm sorry, but why aren't you pressing charges?

On to Enis: So your ex feels awful about this. The poor little douche feels so very, very terrible that he's had to be hospitalized. Why, he's even contemplated suicide. Good. He should feel terrible. Forever. Which is why I hereby forbid you to forgive Enis. Ever. Make the mistake of forgiving this speck of shit, NCA, and 10 minutes later a little voice in the back of his head would start telling him that this rape wasn't that big a deal—after all, the woman he tied up, anally raped, and landed in the hospital didn't press charges... she even forgave him... how bad could it really have been... no reason he shouldn't pull this same stunt with his next girlfriend...

We can't have that, NCA, so Enis's family and friends will just have to go fuck themselves. And if you find yourself wavering, if you find yourself tempted to forgive him, consider this: Enis is attempting to bully you into forgiving him just as he attempted to bully you into anal sex. But since he can't tie you to a bed and fuck forgiveness from you, he's using the threat of suicide to get what he wants. Repeat after me, NCA: Enis had no right to fuck with your ass then, and he has no right to fuck with your head now.

Finally, I'm sorry you felt I might not sympathize with you—a woman brutalized by someone she thought she could trust—due to your lack of interest in anal sex. No one has to "do" anal sex to win my sympathy. I'm a fan, as everyone knows, but anal sex isn't a litmus test. In addition to feeling sympathy for you, NCA, I sincerely hope that you weren't emotionally traumatized by this experience, as you claim. It would be a good idea, however, to see a counselor once or twice just to make sure.

IN YOUR RESPONSE TO OBESE, THE UNFIT DUDE who gets winded after five minutes of the ol' in-and-out, you said there were no exercises he could do to improve his sexual performance. I disagree. First, he needs cardiovascular exercise. Light to start, building in intensity and endurance over time. Any cardio will do: jogging, stair machine, swimming, whatever.

But beyond that, there's a secret core-strengthening exercise many athletes do to improve their performance—and not just on the track. I give you "The Plank." This exercise can put quite a bit of strain on the lower back, so OBESE should shed a few pounds before he attempts it, but here's how it works: Lie on the floor on your stomach. Point your toes directly into the floor. Prop yourself up on your elbows with your elbows directly under your shoulders and with your forearms flat on the ground. Hoist your entire body off the floor so your only points of contact with the floor are your toes, elbows, and forearms. Your body should be flat as a board between your heels and your shoulders. Don't let your back sag, and don't stick your ass up in the air. Hold this position as long as you can, breathing the whole time.

This is a great exercise for strengthening the core of your body: your abs, lower back, and pelvic-floor muscles. The longer you can hold this position, the longer a man can comfortably support himself over a woman while making love in the traditional missionary style without getting exhausted.

Good luck, OBESE, and happy screwing!

Fitness Freak Shag Bunny

Thanks for sharing, FFSB.

A new Savage Love podcast is available for download every Tuesday at www.thestranger.com/savage. mail@savagelove.net

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